'I'm just a girl who grew up on an island' PAGE 3
Warning out against taking unknown medicines. PAGE 8

Hafa Adai!

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# Saipan Tribune

Volume XXIX, Issue No. 71
**THURSDAY** APRIL 11, 2019
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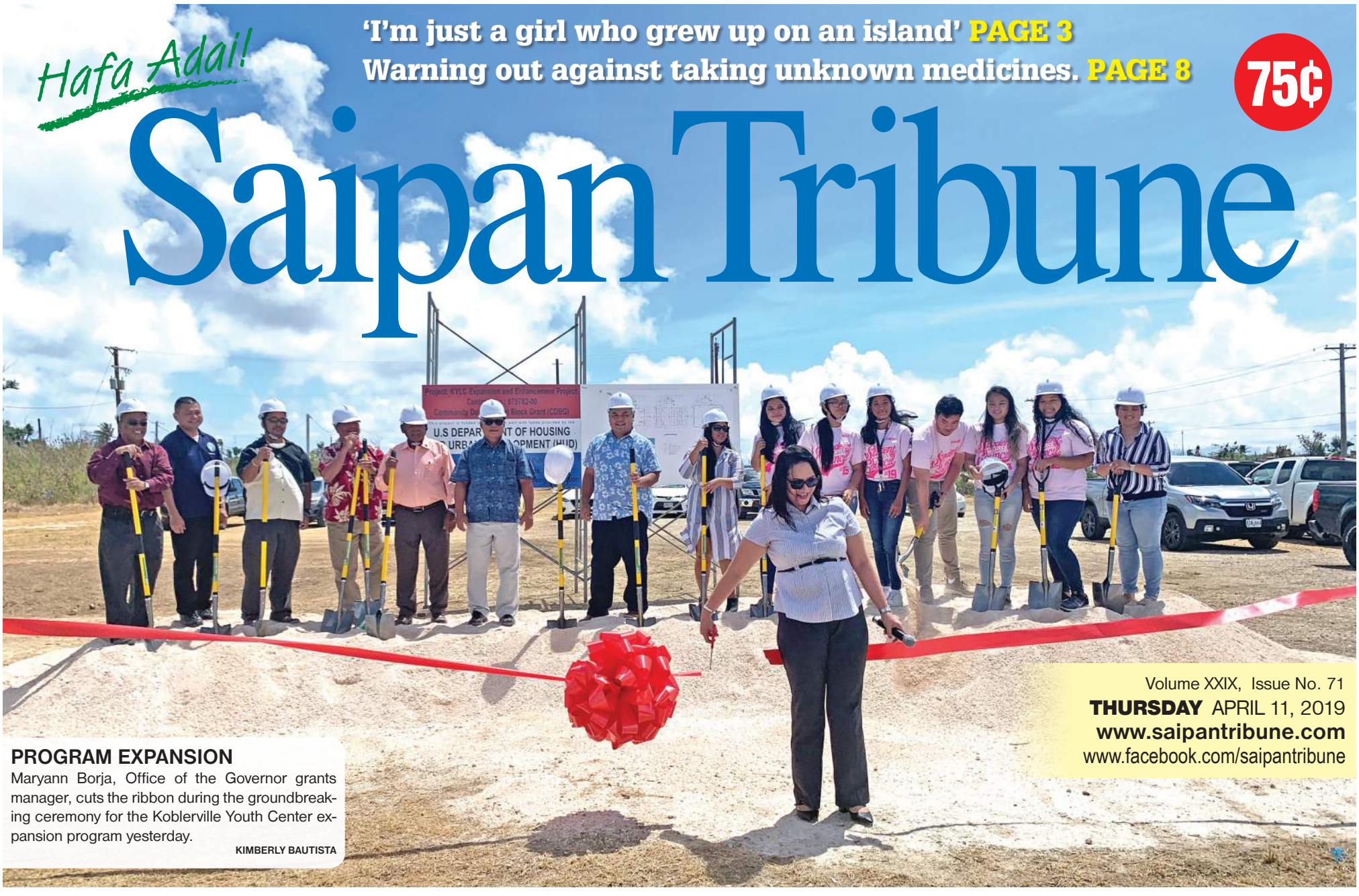

**PROGRAM EXPANSION**
Maryann Borja, Office of the Governor grants manager, cuts the ribbon during the groundbreaking ceremony for the Koblerville Youth Center expansion program yesterday.
KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

# Argosy U closes; possible student loan forgiveness

On the heels of the closure of Argosy University, CNMI residents who are enrolled in Argosy's online program may be able to have their student loan forgiven.

According to a notice yesterday from the Office of the Attorney General's Office of Consumer Counsel, federal regulations provide that students who are enrolled in a school that closes, or who withdraw up to 120 days before the school closes, and are unable to complete their

See ARGOSY on **Page 4**

## 'Employers should consult local Labor'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

To avoid confusion, the CNMI Department of Labor is advising all employers to simply approach it if they have questions or other things that they want to clarify about the new policies in submitting for petitions for CNMI-Only Tran-

See EMPLOYERS on **Page 4**

JON PEREZ
Matt Deleon Guerrero discusses the process of gathering information from employers in the ongoing prevailing wage survey during yesterday's Society of Human Resources Management meeting at Pacific Islands Club-Saipan's Charley's Cabaret.

# Guerrero confirmed DPS chief

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
limberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Robert Guerrero, who has been the acting commissioner of the Department of Public Safety for the past few weeks, was confirmed to the position yesterday.

Guerrero

The CNMI Senate's Executive Appointments and Government Investigation Committee also confirmed three other department heads: James Ada as Department of Public Works secretary, Anthony Benavente as Department of Land and Natural Resource secretary, and Vicky Benavente as Department of Labor secretary.

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## INSIDE

**LOCAL**
The Tan Siu Lin Foundation has donated $2,000 to the 23rd Charity Golf Classic.

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**ASIA**
Japan partially lifted an evacuation order in the tsunami-wrecked Fukushima plant.

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**WORLD**
Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appears to be headed toward re-election.

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# Local

## Leon Guerrero is named fisheries scholarship recipient

Keena C. Leon Guerrero has been selected as the 2019-2020 U.S. Pacific Territories Capacity Building Program scholarship recipient.

The CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources, in partnership with the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, the National Marine Fisheries Service Pacific Islands Regional Office, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announced Leon Guerrero's selection yesterday.

Leon Guerrero was a recipient of the scholarship program during her undergraduate studies and has served as a fishery biologist under the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife and is currently the Fisheries Data Section supervisor.

Leon Guerrero reportedly plans to continue her graduate studies in the summer at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

According to Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Anthony T. Benavente, two previous scholarship recipients, Francisco C. Villagomez of the University of Guam and Carey Demapan of Hawaii Pacific University, have returned to serve DLNR's fisheries programs.

"Fisheries education and community outreach is critical for our U.S. territories and island states. This program provides unique and rigorous educational programs and opportunities in marine science and fisheries and has allowed our local programs to grow. We are very grateful for this program and the opportunity to collaborate with universities throughout the Pacific and we're confident this program will build more interest in protecting and cultivating our natural resources," Benavente said.

In a letter, WPRFMC executive director Kitty M. Simonds commended Leon Guerrero for her continued interest in managing fisheries and related marine ecosystems.

Based on the availability of funds, the scholarship will cover tuition, room and board, books and supplies, fees, and personal expenses.

As a scholarship recipient, Leon Guerrero will be required to work under the CNMI DFW for one year for each year the scholarship is received.

State Coordinator for the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council Floyd Masga, left, and Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Anthony Benavente flank Keena C. Leon Guerrero.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said the U.S. Pacific Territories Capacity Building Program has given opportunities to U.S. citizens and nationals of American Samoa, Guam, the CNMI and Hawaii.

"This program has definitely bridged the gap for our CNMI scholars so that they can return to join our workforce. It has been a constant priority of this administration to cultivate the current and next generation's interest in coming back to serve our islands, build our economy, and protect our environment. I sincerely thank WESPAC for their support and diligence in giving students the opportunity to sustain our local practices and our fisheries," Torres said.

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios added that this program started as a simple agreement between several local and federal agencies to recognize the importance of island cultures and traditional fishing practices in managing fishery resources.

"This program has come a long way to benefit local residents and agencies….I encourage other students who are passionate about marine resources to take advantage of this opportunity," Palacios said.


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Email: HumanResourceTeam@ipehq.com
Mail: PMB 1009 PO Box 10000 Saipan, MP 96950

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# ‘I’m just a girl who grew up on an island’

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former CNMI resident won an award at the Utah Film Festival for her role in a film shot in only six months.

Yvonne DLG Bennett last weekend was awarded the 2019 Utah Film Festival award for best supporting actress on the film *Stalker* directed by Devin K. Hansen. The film was nominated in eight categories: feature director, lead actress, supporting actor, ensemble cast, feature, budget under $5,000, and best supporting actress, which Bennett bagged.

The film also won the film festival’s budget under $5,000 award.

**» Bennett wins award at Utah Film Festival**

“I want to thank Devin K. Hansen first because I said yes to his project first and he is one of the most passionate filmmakers I know,” she said in her acceptance speech. “…It was so fun to work with everybody and it was an amazing six months for us filming this project.”

Bennett recalled her days of living on Saipan.

“This is more than an award. I am just a girl who grew up on an island with 50,000 people. I was just so stubborn [and asserted] that I wanted to act and I am still doing it and would continue doing it,” she said.

“I want to dedicate this award to all the females back home in the CNMI because if a girl like me from an island can come and pursue my dreams, so can you,” she said.

In a separate social media post, Bennett also dedicated the award to the special females in her life: her mother, Lillian Bennett, her twin sister Yvette DLG Bennett, and sister Shequita Curby.

# Leasing property adjacent to airport for non-aeronautical activities considered

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is exploring the idea of leasing its property adjacent to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport for non-aeronautical activities to earn more money.

According to a CPA document called “Strategic Planning for CNMI Air and Seaports,” its existing leases—both aviation/harbor and non-aviation/non-harbor—enable CPA to earn a substantial amount.

CPA’s plan is to examine various land leases that are outside of the aeronautical/harbor classification.

CPA said the Department of Public Lands’ land use plan and the CPA’s master plans are nearing completion, which will assist CPA in determining the different types of potential leases.

CPA’s intent is to align its development plan with that of the CNMI government.

CPA is also exploring the possibility of charging fees for the use of baggage carts as another potential revenue source.

CPA noted that many airports worldwide have implemented a fee for the use of baggage carts.

CPA, however, conceded that given the airport’s current footprint, it is still undetermined if this venture would be profitable.

Passengers use baggage carts for a distance of only a few feet.

Another idea is establishing a food and beverage kiosk after or in the arrival area. All food and beverage stations are right now located in the departure areas.

Another idea is establishing booths for tour companies as most arriving passengers are associated with a tour agent/company.

CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio said the Strategic Planning outlines what the staff and management have identified as priorities that CPA will pursue in the next four years.

# ‘Recording of Hillbroom phone talk was proper’

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Guam lawyer David J. Lujan’s recording of his telephone conversations with his former client, Junior Larry Hillbroom, was proper and not unethical, according Vietnam-based lawyer Barry J. Israel.

Israel, through counsel Theodore Frank, said that pursuant to the federal “one-party consent” law, only Lujan’s participation was required to record the two telephone conversations between Hillbroom and Lujan.

Israel defended Lujan’s action in his motion filed Monday before the U.S. District Court for the NMI to dismiss Hillbroom’s legal malpractice lawsuit against him and Lujan.

Frank said the court should dismiss the lawsuit based on Hillbroom’s statement that he no longer wishes to proceed with it.

Alternatively, Frank said, the court should hear this issue as soon as possible.

In Israel’s motion to dismiss Frank said that Hillbroom has instructed his counsel as early as Feb. 2, 2009, to dismiss the lawsuit but his counsel has yet to comply with the instruction.

Lujan joined in Israel’s motion to dismiss.

Hillbroom, through counsel Rachel Dimitruk, opposed the motion to dismiss last week, saying he wants to proceed with his lawsuit. He also asked the court to sanction Lujan and Israel in the amount of $11,950 for allegedly taping his conversations, describing this as an ethical violation. He also asked the court to disqualify Frank as counsel for Israel.

In Israel’s reply last Monday, Frank said the telephone number that Hillbroom was on during the two telephone conversations had the area code “208,” which is an Idaho area code that covers the city of Boise and all 45 counties of Idaho.

Frank said it would appear that, at least for the first telephone call, Hillbroom was in Idaho at the time; a state where he owns property, used to live, and where he previously attended drug rehabilitation.

Frank said Idaho is a “one-party consent” state and the recording was therefore legal.

Frank said that having the telephone conversations recorded practically assists the court in determining the appropriate method of resolving this.

Without the recordings, Frank said, the court would be faced with a “he said, she said” dispute, limiting the court’s determination to whether Lujan is more credible than Hillbroom’s counsel.

Frank noted that Hillbroom’s counsel’s reference that the recordings may be a violation of Guam law is nonsensical.

Frank said the Guam statute governs recording “outside a private place” of “sounds originating” in that public place.

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# 'Nearly 300 reports of two types of STDs in 2018'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In 2018 alone, there were almost 300 cases of two types of sexually transmitted diseases in the CNMI, according to a Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. statement yesterday.

Of that number, 245 were cases of chlamydia and 34 were cases of gonorrhea, CHCC noted. All cases were reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Chlamydia, one of the most common sexually transmitted infections, or STI, is passed through unprotected sex. Gonorrhea is also passed through unprotected sex.

Both STIs can infect men and women and usually affect the urethra, rectum, throat, and even the cervix of women.

"High school-aged students are most vulnerable to chlamydia and gonorrhea infections. In 2018, 58 percent of reported cases of chlamydia and 53 percent of reported cases of gonorrhea were within the age range of 15-24," CHCC noted.

CHCC further reported that since 1997, the CNMI has reported less than 50 persons living with human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV, which later becomes Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, or AIDS.

"Fifty-five percent of the current cases have an AIDS diagnosis while the other 45 percent have an HIV diagnosis," CHCC stated.

CHCC reiterated its HIV and STD prevention program in observance of the National Public Health Week and has partnered with the American Public Health Association for this occasion.

**A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com**

## EMPLOYERS

*From Page 1*

sitional Worker (CW-1 visa)—either renewals or new hires.

This was the advice of Eugene Tebuteb, director of the Employment Services Division of the CNMI Department of Labor, to all employers, whether they are small or big business, to avoid confusion on how to file the CW1 petitions and to better understand the federal Labor Department's interim final rule.

The IFR was released late last month and took effect on April 4.

"I recommend that, if employers have questions, refer it to us at CNMI Labor. We are working closely with the U.S. Department of Labor and the Department of Homeland Security on this," Tebuteb told *Saipan Tribune* after yesterday's meeting of the NMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resources Management at PIC-Saipan's Charley's Cabaret.

"In fact, we have regular conference calls with them [U.S. DOL and DHS]," said Tebuteb, who added that they could also forward the questions to DOL and DHS officials and get back to them once answers have been provided.

The IFR for temporary employment requires employers when they submit their CW-1 petitions to obtain a prevailing CNMI wage for the position and a temporary labor certificate from the U.S. Department of Labor.

SHRM NMI Chapter president Catherine J. Cachero also advised employers to analyze their situation before submitting the petitions for their foreign workers. "Every employer needs to consider their needs and do their analysis on who their critical employees are."

Tebuteb said the local Labor Department had already prepared even before the IFR was implemented, that the changes on how to petition for foreign workers will take effect today and they expect only minor problems. "Our Web administrator has done everything that we needed to do to modify our website…."

"Keep in mind, we're still in a testing environment. We're going to probably experience things that we need to figure out and settle but, once it is effective tomorrow, you can actually start posting your [job vacancy announcements]."

### Information campaign

Tebuteb reminded employers that the CNMI Department of Labor will hold a community outreach event on May 21 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center from 9am to 3pm to further inform the community about ongoing issues with labor and employment.

"All the divisions within the department will describe all their roles, responsibilities, and duties, and explain the [interim final rule] that has just been implemented," said Tebuteb.

SHRM will also have a separate seminar and workshop on May 9 and June 27 on personnel policies to make sure employers are compliant with CNMI and federal labor laws.

### New PWS

Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. president Alex Sablan said they and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce are assisting in the prevailing wage survey.

The current PW would no longer be used since it was taken not within this year. "So, we needed to conduct a PWS to capture the wages in this particular calendar year," Sablan said.

"We are thankful for the [CNMI] Department of Commerce, Labor, and the Governor's Office for always being there to assist us," he said. "[The Commerce Department] is conducting the survey."

He assured that the Chamber, of which he is a board member, has nothing to do with the survey information.

"You may have seen the PWS, the online version, and the email information is going to the DOC's Central Statistics Division. We [SCC] get nothing," added Sablan.

He said that they began the process of determining the prevailing wage as soon as they came back from Washington D.C. early this year. "When we came back, we quickly martialed our resources," he added.

Sablan said Matt Deleon Guerrero had been helpful in getting things up and running as quickly as possible in sifting through the methodology and discussions with the federal Labor Department. "To make it as efficient as possible."

He added that it usually takes four to six months to conduct and compile a PWS and the CNMI is trying to do it in seven weeks.

He said the NMBAC is thankful to the U.S. Labor Department for accepting the process they have been doing as they try to speed up things in getting all the information available.

"We are going to send follow up letters to U.S. Labor asking them to please approve the survey that was conducted as we complete this process. So come April 22, as we populate the numbers and get them to U.S. Labor, we're going to put them on their timeline on the 21 days that was promised to accomplish the process."

## ARGOSY

*From Page 1*

program of study can apply for a "Closed School Discharge" of their federal student loans used to attend the closed school.

Argosy announced last March 8 that it is closing its stateside campuses and online program, effective immediately.

This news came after the discovery that the university used $13 million of student loan money from the U.S. Department of Education to cover payroll and other expenses. Last-minute court filings were unsuccessful to prevent the institution's closing.

The OAG notice said that, if you are currently enrolled in Argosy's online program, loan forgiveness may be available for you.

However, students who graduate from the closed school or who transfer their credits to a comparable program at another school are not eligible for Closed School Discharge.

Transferring to another school is an option, with many online programs offering assistance to Argosy students that includes fee waivers, discounts on class credit fees, and other incentives.

For example, Liberty University's online program is offering Argosy students their first class free if they would like to transfer. The American College of Education is waiving transfer fees for Argosy students. Other colleges and universities have similar offers. The WASC Senior College and University Commission who approved Argosy's accreditation intends to provide information on their website with the names of schools willing to assist Argosy students or absorb entire academic programs.

When considering your options, you should know that completing a comparable program of study through another school could disqualify you from receiving a Closed School Discharge. For example, if you decide to complete an education program at another school and transfer education credits earned at Argosy, you will not be eligible for a Closed School Discharge of your Argosy federal loans.

For some people, having their student loans discharged will be preferable to continuing their programs of study and being obligated to repay the student loan debt accrued at their school.

You should carefully consider your options and personal finances before continuing your studies or applying for a Closed School Discharge.

The U.S. Department of Education has created a special Web page containing information related to the Argosy closure at: https://www.studentaid.ed.gov/sa/about/announcements/dream-center. For more information on the process for applying for a Closed School Discharge, check out https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans- forgiveness-cancellation/closed-school.

To receive a Closed School Discharge, you will need to submit an application to your loan servicer. You can obtain a copy of the application form from your servicer or download one at: http://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/closed-school-loan-discharge-form.pdf. You can determine your current loan servicer and check how much you currently owe in federal debt at http://nslds.ed.gov/nslds/nslds_SA/.

The U.S. Department of Education has also begun the process of identifying students who received a federal direct student loan for the current term and intends to cancel those disbursements. The cancellation of the disbursement for the current term will be done automatically with adjustments made to your loan balance to reflect it. For current Pell Grant recipients transferring to a school and starting classes before July 1, 2019, the financial aid office at your new school will be able to determine your remaining 2018-2019 Pell Grant eligibility. The Department of Education is hosting interactive webinars for students from closed Argosy University programs to share information and address questions and concerns. Visit https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/dream-center-webinars.pdf for details and to register.

Argosy University continues to offer career services to students to assist with employment opportunities and job skills development. Students can seek guidance in building a resume, career planning, developing job-search strategies, preparing for an interview and evaluating potential job opportunities. For assistance, call 1-855-855- 0571 or email AUcareer-readiness@argosy.edu.

For account balance inquiries, check online at CSSNRecovery@dcedh.org. If you need a copy of your student transcripts and wish to discuss other issues, refer to https://argosy.edu/closed-school-information. You can also order a transcript through the mail. Mailed requests typically require three weeks processing time. Print and complete the Transcript Request Form found online and make sure to include your signature on the form or it cannot be processed. Mail the form and payment to:

Dream Center Education Holdings
Attn: Academic Operations Department 1400 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Students may only request up to three official transcripts at this time via the Campus Common student portal. Should you need more than three official transcripts, send an email request to DCEHPriorityServices@dcedh.org and include your name, location attended, full contact information, and the reason for needing additional transcripts in order for the request to be reviewed.

If you need a copy of your Diploma, email ClosedCampusDiplomaRequest@dcedh.org and include your name as it should appear on your diploma, your current mailing address, a copy of your student ID, the program completed, the campus attended, dates attended, and reason for the request (lost diploma, misprinted, first time request, etc.) Please note that It may take up to 12 weeks to process the request given the volume of requests for diplomas recently received.

To speak with a school representative directly, call 1-855-758-5660 or email service@dcedh.org. Representatives are available 9am-8pm EST, Monday-Friday, but email may be the fastest way to receive assistance according to the school's published information.

In addition, please do not hesitate to contact Michele Harris, Consumer Counsel for the Office of the Attorney General, at (670) 237-7500 if you have other questions or concerns. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

## GUERRERO

*From Page 1*

All four were already Cabinet members in the previous administration but submitted courtesy resignations last December, as per protocol, upon the swearing in of the new administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who was elected governor last November.

When asked for comments about his confirmation, Guerrero said all he felt at that moment was relief that the long process of judging whether he would be reappointed or not is now over.

In a previous interview, Guerrero said the toughest part of the reappointment process is the judging of everything he has ever done as a commissioner. He added that it's never fun to be judged.

"You have a set of report cards that they can pick on, like why did I do this and why did I do that, unlike a new appointee where they'll make promises…with everything I want to do but there's nothing to judge off," he had said.

During the many confirmation hearings leading up to his reappointment, Guerrero was asked about some of the more controversial DPS issues in the CNMI, including what is being done about reckless tourist drivers, the number of cold cases that still remain unanswered, and more.

Guerrero received support from nearly his entire department and other branches under the CNMI government and obtained widespread support from members of the Saipan and Tinian communities.

Guerrero himself was amazed at the amount of support he got from members of DPS, members of the Legislature, members or the Executive Branch, and the public who came to witness the hearings.

Guerrero is the former Department of Corrections commissioner, former director of Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, and has had years of law enforcement and military experience.

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# Eight university presidents commit to island sustainability

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

From left, Robert A. Underwood, president emeritus of University of Guam; Seok-eon Song, president of Jeju National University; Elsa Manarpaac, president of Western Philippines University; Frankie M. Eliptico, interim president, Northern Marianas College; Thomas W. Krise, president of the University of Guam; Theresa Koroivulaono, president of the College of the Marshall Islands; Mary A.Y. Okada, president of Guam Community College; Dale Webber, pro vice chancellor and principal, University of the West Indies, Mona Campus; and David Lassner, president, University of Hawaii.

The presidents of eight island colleges and universities made several collective commitments toward sustainability Tuesday during a presidential summit prior to the start of the 10th University of Guam Conference on Island Sustainability at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

"All of our universities are uniquely well-suited to help society figure out how to meet the challenges that we're facing in terms of sustainability," said Thomas W. Krise, president of UOG.

The leaders present for the summit were from the University of Guam, Guam Community College, Northern Marianas College, the College of the Marshall Islands, the University of Hawaii, Western Philippines University in Palawan, Jeju National University in South Korea, and the University of the West Indies in Jamaica.

The university heads shared with one another the specific initiatives underway on their campuses to address sustainability issues—including renewable energy, rainwater catchment, and transportation projects—as well as the challenges in island sustainability that they continue to face, including waste reduction and food security. They then agreed upon the following list of commitments in terms of educational programming and university activity:

- Seek indigenous/island solutions to island problems.
- Connect heads of research with one another.
- Connect heads of workforce development with one another.
- Create an inventory or website to connect best practices or solutions.
- Exchange visits among institutions to foster future exchanges of faculty, staff, and students

"Universities were not built for themselves; they were built for their communities," said Dale Webber, pro vice chancellor and principal of the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus in Jamaica. "We are islands apart, but we are all in this together."

The Conference on Island Sustainability officially kicked off Tuesday afternoon and will continue through Thursday.

A complete agenda can be found at www.uog.edu/cis2019/. Several portions of the conference are free to the public, including the "CIS Seed Talks: Ideas Worth Cultivating" last night from 5:30pm to 7:30pm and the GAX Block Party from 6pm to 10pm today at the Guam Museum. ***(UOG)***


**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**
**INVITATION TO BID**
**ITB NO.: ITB19-OGM/MRS-075**

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 06, 2019 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

**"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) RETROFITTED WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VAN FOR THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/S/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**
**INVITATION TO BID**
**ITB NO.: ITB19-DFEMS-073**

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 29, 2019 TIME: 9:30 A.M

**"20 FIREFIGHTING SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS (SCBA) AND ACCESSORIES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ CLAUDIO K. NORITA
COMMISSIONER, DFEMS

/S/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**
**RFP NO.: RFP19-JUDICIARY-067**

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 06, 2019 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

**"ROOFING TILE REMOVAL AND FINISHING FOR THE GUMA' HUSTISIA, IIMWAL AWEEWE, HOUSE OF JUSTICE SAIPAN, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**QUESTIONS** MUST BE MADE IN WRITING TO **JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ** VIA EMAIL TO john.villagomez@jusitice.gov.mp **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS APRIL 26, 2019** ALL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

**A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING** WILL BE HELD ON **APRIL 24, 2019 AT 09:30 A.M., LOCAL TIME** AT THE GUMA' HUSTISIA ASSEMBLY HALL.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**
**INVITATION TO BID**
**RFP NO.: RFP19-DPL-076**

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 06, 2019 TIME: 010:00 A.M.

**"IMPLEMENTATION SAGE 50 PROGRAM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**QUESTIONS** REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE MADE IN ANY MODE OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO **MS. MARIANNE C. TEREGEYO, SECRETARY**, VIA FACSIMILE TO (670) 234-3755 OR VIA E-MAIL TO mariannet@dpl.gov.mp **NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., APRIL 22, 2019**.

**PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING** IS SCHEDULE ON **APRIL 24, 2019 AT 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME**, AT THE OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS LOCATED ON THE 2ND FLOOR OF THE JOETEN DANDAN COMMERCIAL BUILDING, SAIPAN.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MARIANNE C. TEREGEYO
SECRETARY, DPL

/S/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**
**INVITATION TO BID**
**ITB NO.: ITB19-DOL/WIA-070**

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 06, 2019 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

**"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "I" VEHICLE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AGENCY"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JEFFREY T. CAMACHO
ACTING SECRETARY OF LABOR

/S/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**
**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**
**RFQ NO.: RFQ19-BECQ/DCRM-069**

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 29, 2019 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

**"A&E SERVICE FOR THE JEFFREY'S BEACH BOARDWALK PROJECT FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL COASTAL QUALITY, DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

# 80 volunteer for Point-In-Time count

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Homeless Coalition did its third annual Point-In-Time count last Saturday and, despite the ongoing post-Super Typhoon Yutu recovery efforts, over 80 individuals came out to volunteer.

A Point-In-Time count refers to the actual counting of how many homeless people are in a certain community but Jacob Muña, Northern Marianas Housing Corp. office manager and CNMI Homeless Coalition member, was hesitant about using the term "homeless" because many are essentially "homeless" due to the recent onslaught of Super Typhoon Yutu.

Despite a decrease in its number of volunteers compared to previous years, Muña said that the coalition was able to go into every village on Saipan to conduct the count and volunteers even re-visited areas they skipped where individuals were not in during the time of the count. The volunteers visited temporary tents that are being used as homes by many displaced individuals.

When asked about the number of "homeless" who were counted, Muña said that they don't have the exact number yet but will have the exact count by the end of April because the data is due for submission on April 30.

This year, the number of heads counted during the Point-In-Time count is expected to be higher because individuals still living in tents were also counted.

The Tinian and Rota count will be done late this month.

Despite plans to skip the count this year due to post-Yutu recovery, Muña said that U.S. Housing and Urban Development encouraged them not to do so because skipping a count is not an option if the coalition still aims to apply for the Continuum of Care grant.

The count is prerequisite for every community that receives federal funds for programs that aid the homeless, particularly the COC grant.

Last year, over 1,000 individuals were considered homeless by HUD definition. That means actual homelessness or living in a home unfit for human habitation.

## Road closure in Chalan Kiya on Saturday

There will be construction and road closures on the eastbound lane of Chalan Kiya Drive near the Chalan Kiya Mobil gas station and Seventh Day Adventist School this Saturday, April 13, 2019 from 8am to 5pm.

This will allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. wastewater operations personnel to uncover and raise manholes buried under asphalt.

During the paving of Chalan Kiya Drive, several manholes were buried under asphalt causing CUC little access to them. As a result of this project, CUC personnel will have a better and easier access to these wastewater assets. It is imperative that CUC have access to these manholes to effectively and efficiently operate, maintain, repair and monitor the system.

Due to the closure of the eastbound lane and for the safety of the community-pedestrians, motorists and large vehicles are advised to proceed with caution and take alternative routes when traveling through the area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.comlCommonwealthUtilitiesCorporationl). ***(PR)***

## Puerto Rico beach red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged the Puerto Rico Dump beach and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this location for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from this location contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

## $250,000 grant OK'd for USVI utilities firm

**WASHINGTON**—U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs Doug Domenech announced yesterday the approval of a $250,000 grant to fund an Integrated Resource Plan for the U.S. Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority.

"The territory has experienced a reduced customer base following Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017, adding to the challenges it was already facing prior to the storms," said Domenech. "The existing need to harden infrastructure and identify energy efficiencies, coupled with changing circumstances on the ground, requires informed decision-making that we are glad to support."

The new Integrated Resource Plan, utilizing up-to-date data, post-Hurricanes Irma and Maria, will serve as a necessary comprehensive decision support tool and road map for helping WAPA provide reliable and least-cost electric service to all customers while addressing the substantial risks and uncertainties inherent in the electric utility business. The plans will identify opportunities utilizing various energy resources and cost efficiencies.

The grant was made available through the Office of Insular Affairs' Energizing Insular Communities program to fund energy strategies that reduce the cost of electricity. An announcement to solicit for fiscal year 2019 funding will be forthcoming. ***(DOI)***

# Warning out against taking unknown medicines

The public is being reminded not to take unknown medicine, especially medicine found in public places.

In a notice yesterday, the consumer counsel of the Office of the Attorney General, the Bureau of Environmental Health, and the Community Health Center's Department of Public Health pointed out that many drugs may have harmful side effects that can lead to medical problems and death.

Unknown containers of medication can also be subject to contamination and tampering.

The notice said that prescription medication should only be taken if prescribed by a qualified health professional, and should only be taken as prescribed. Drugs are also subject to expiration.

Unused and expired drugs should always be disposed of promptly and properly. Each year, the Drug Enforcement Agency extends a drug take-back program in the CNMI. Drug take-back programs are the recommended methods for safe disposal of unused and expired medications; however, they may not always be available.

The Federal Drug Administration suggests following these safety steps to safely dispose of unused medication:

(1) Check the product package insert to see if there are special instructions on disposal.

(2) For disposing in household trash:

- Mix medicines (do not crush tablets or capsules) with an unpalatable substance such as dirt, cat litter, or used coffee grounds;
- Place the mixture in a container such as a sealed plastic bag;
- Throw the container in household trash;
- Delete all personal information on the prescription label of empty pill bottles or medicine packaging, then dispose of the container

(3) Certain medicines should be flushed immediately* if drug take-back options are not readily available because of the potential for harm that can include serious health risks and even death with just one ingestion if not properly prescribed

For additional information, visit:

https://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm101653.htm.

You can also contact BEH at (670) 664-4870/2/3/, or email John Tagabuel, Director of BEH, at john.tagabuel@dph.gov.mp or the OAG, Lawrence Pangelinan, Chief Investigator of AGID, at (670) 237-7600, lawrence_pangelinan@cnmioag.org, or Michele Harris, Consumer Counsel, at (670) 237-7500, michele_harris@cnmioag.org. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

# IP&E donates $2,000 to Hyatt charity golf tournament

Hyatt Regency Saipan 23rd Annual Charity Golf Classic has received a $2,000 cash donation from IP&E Saipan, placing the company in the platinum tier level.

The cash donation will aid this year's five beneficiaries in their purpose of enhancing the quality of life of those in need within our community.

The donation from IP&E Saipan will aid this year's beneficiaries: Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam and CNMI, 500 Sails, NMI Rollers Basketball Association, Isla Montessori School, and 4H Marianas.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation grant swishes to children with life-threatening illnesses.

500 Sails aims to revive traditional Chamorro and Carolinian *proa* (canoe) construction and sailing.

The NMI Rollers Basketball Association promotes the sport of basketball among the youth.

Isla Montessori School strives to blur the boundaries between the island community and institutional schooling.

4H Marianas promotes agriculture and outdoor learning among the youth of the CNMI.

From left, Angel Mendoza, Hyatt Regency Saipan graphic artist; Rosalyn Quintanilla, Hyatt Regency Saipan director of Rooms; Ron Benavente, IP&E Saipan commercial account executive; Ty Pauling, Hyatt Regency Saipan Food & Beverage director; and Zenn Tomokane, Hyatt Regency Saipan executive sous chef.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"Year after year, IP&E Saipan continues to show their care for our community through their generous support of our golf classic. The continued support of our partners in the business community help to make it possible for our team to create a noteworthy tournament that supports our islands nonprofit community. We are deeply grateful for the continued partnership with Hyatt Regency Saipan as well as their continued support for the Charity Golf Classic through IP&E's $2,000 cash donation," said Mihir Rout, Hyatt Regency Saipan director of Engineering.

IP&E (Isla Petroleum & Energy Holdings, LLC) is a retailer and commercial supplier of petroleum products and service to the CNMI, Guam and Republic of Palau; the organization also holds wholesale operations in the Federal States of Micronesia as well as the Republic of the Marshalls. ***(PR)***

# Guam Guard airmen depart for border duty

Airmen from the Guam Air National Guard recently departed en route to Yuma, Arizona, in support of Operation Guardian Support at the Southwest Border.

GUAM NATIONAL GUARD

Ten airmen from the Guam Air National Guard departed last week en route to Yuma, Arizona, in support of Operation Guardian Support at the Southwest Border.

They will be tasked with providing operational support for domestic operations at the southern border between the United States and Mexico.

These airmen will be performing this Southwest Border mission for approximately three months.

Keep in mind that there are still Guam Air National Guard airmen from the 254th Air Base Group, the 254th Security Forces Squadron and the 254th Force Support Squadron who are currently deployed or supporting missions around the world. ***(PR)***

# Domenech meets with Guam leaders

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**— U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs Doug Domenech visited the U.S. territory of Guam last week, where he met with Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov. Joshua Tenorio, the Guam Energy Office, as well as the staff of the Commission on Decolonization.

Domenech also met with Guam Speaker Tina Muña Barnes and several Guam legislators.

"The various issues that impact the lives of Guamanians are extremely important to the mission of the Department of the Interior, so I appreciated meeting with [Leon Guerrero and Tenorio]," said Domenech.

While in Guam, he signed several Capital Improvement Project grants totaling $6.33 million that he later presented to Leon Guerrero:

- $3.08 million for the Department of Public Health & Social Services to fund the Division of Environmental Health's new office space and a facility for processing and training.
- $2.25 million for the Department of Youth Affairs to 1) purchase space in Mangilao in compliance with Department of Justice requirements for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and 2) build administrative offices and supply depots, provide maintenance, and replace emergency generators,
- $1 million for the Insular Assessment of Buildings and Classrooms program to address deferred maintenance needs in local schools.

The CIP program provided through the Office of Insular Affairs serves to address a variety of critical infrastructure needs in the U.S. territories such as hospitals, schools, wastewater and solid waste systems.

The Insular Assessment of Buildings and Classroom program provides an assessment of the physical condition of public schools in American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and prioritizes critical health and safety deferred maintenance needs. ***(DOI)***

# Explore master's degree opportunities at UOG

Working professionals, recent college graduates, and others considering a master's degree now or in the future will have an opportunity to explore 15 options available at the University of Guam through the university's Fañomnåkan 2019 Graduate Program Recruitment Fair on Wednesday, April 17.

**» University of Guam to hold Graduate Program Recruitment Fair on April 17**

The fair is open to the public and will take place from 3pm to 7pm at the Multi-Purpose Room 129 of the Jesus & Eugenia Leon Guerrero School of Business & Public Administration Building on the University of Guam campus.

The fair will feature tables for each of the graduate programs and will also provide opportunities for attendees to speak first-hand with current graduate students and faculty. Financial aid and admissions assistance will also be available, including information on available scholarships and assistantships.

The fair will also feature food and giveaways.

UOG offers the following master's degrees:

- Master of Arts in Counseling
- Master of Arts in English
- Master of Arts in Micronesian Studies
- Master of Arts in Teaching
- Master of Education in Administration and Supervision
- Master of Education in Reading (online degree program)
- Master of Education in Secondary Education
- Master of Education in Special Education
- Master of Education in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
- Master of Public Administration
- Master of Science in Biology
- Master of Science in Clinical Psychology
- Master of Science in Environmental Science
- Master of Science in Sustainable Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
- Professional Master of Business Administration (available on-campus or online) ***(UOG)***

# TSL Foundation donates $2K to Hyatt charity golf tourney

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation has donated $2,000 as a platinum sponsor of this year's 23rd Annual Charity Golf Classic of the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The donation from Tan Siu Lin Foundation will aid this year's beneficiaries: Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam and CNMI, 500 Sails, NMI Rollers Basketball Association, Isla Montessori School, and 4H Marianas.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation grant swishes to children with life-threatening illnesses.

500 Sails aims to revive traditional Chamorro and Carolinian *proa* (canoe) construction and sailing.

The NMI Rollers Basketball Association promotes the sport of basketball among the youth.

Isla Montessori School strives to blur the boundaries between the island community and institutional schooling.

4H Marianas promotes agriculture and outdoor learning among the youth of the CNMI.

Merlie Tolentino, executive director of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, said: "Hyatt is one of our partners, so every year our foundation is truly honored to be a part of a cause that supports Make-A-Wish Foundation and different non-profit organizations of the community. It is in high hopes that through various efforts such as the Annual Hyatt Regency Charity Golf Classic, will ultimately lead to benefit and further develop the community in ways possible."

"[It is the] wonderful and collaborative efforts from community partners like Tan Siu Lin Foundation and *Saipan Tribune* that make giving back to the community possible," said Claudine Camacho, Hyatt Regency Saipan assistant manager of marketing communications. "It is a pleasure working with the *Saipan Tribune* team, because the media team's personalized and creative assistance is genuinely appreciated."

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation is the charitable arm of the TanHoldings Corp. The company headquarters were moved to Saipan in 1983, where it is now the largest private taxpayer and employer in the CNMI. Led by company president Jerry Tan, the company today is involved in a wide variety of industries in the Western Pacific: airlines, amusement, family entertainment, fishing, ground handling services, hotels, information technology, insurance, logistics services, publishing, and real estate. ***(PR)***

From left, Jerry Tan, TanHoldings chief executive officer; Carline Sablan, TanHoldings Community Relations director; Ty Pauling, Hyatt Regency Saipan F&B director; Angel Mendoza, Hyatt Regency Saipan graphic artist; Merlie Tolentino, executive director of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation; Raymond Zapanta, Tan Siu Lin Foundation assistant manager; Rosalyn Quintanilla, Hyatt Regency Saipan director of Rooms; Mel Naputi, Tan Siu Lin Foundation administration officer; and Zenn Tomokane, Hyatt Regency Saipan executive sous chef.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Las Vegas Night proceeds 'looking good'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite no specific dollar amount yet, proceeds from the Rotary Club of Saipan's fundraiser last Tuesday, the Las Vegas Nights, are being described as "looking good.

Rotary Club of Saipan vice president Brian Clayton said the Las Vegas Nights' proceeds were at about the $27,000 mark but no solid figures are ready at this time.

Clayton noted that only one person is handling all the proceeds of their annual fundraiser, so the final numbers were not yet available as of publication.

"We have a rough idea. It's about $27,000 at this point but we don't know [for sure]. …The final numbers have not been tallied yet," he said, adding that the $27,000 is a mere estimate.

"The Las Vegas Night was a success[and] we got a great turnout," Clayton said. "We should know [how much was raised] in the next weeks."

He expects it to take about two weeks before the final proceeds are announced.

Club president-elect Marcia Ayuyu thanked the sponsors who donated or assisted the Rotary Club of Saipan for the event.

The sponsors and donors are DFS T Galleria, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, Triple J Motors, Marianas Printing, Marpac, Joeten Enterprise, Yaong Corp., Herman's Modern Bakery, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, National Office Supply, Hyatt Regency Saipan, IT&E, Blossoms Floral Shop, J's Restaurant, McDonald's Saipan, Century Tours, Let's Go Marianas, Seatouch, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Megabyte Saipan, Bubba Gump, Tony Roma's, Kanoa Resort, and D&Q International Distributor.

The club is also grateful to the volunteers who manned the table games. He noted during last Tuesday's club meeting that they would be coming up "with something" to honor the volunteers.

"…At this point, we are still trying to figure out how much we'll have to pay for different prizes…and collecting all the tickets. Once we have all that finalized…then we get the final numbers to see exactly how successful the event was," he said.

The club gave away several door prizes, along with grand prizes totaling $16,500 in cash.

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**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND Floor Arrival Bldg.
PO BOX 501055, SAIPAN, MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**APPEALS COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) hereby gives notice that a special meeting for the Board Appeals Ad-hoc Committee will be held on Friday, April 12, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in Meeting Room 1 (located between the Ports Police Central Office and the ATM machine) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on Saipan.

The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

**AGENDA**

I. **PRELIMINARY MATTER:**
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
II. **PUBLIC COMMENT(S)**
III. **RNV Construction's Appeal –** Tinian Airport's ARFF Building Renovation Project
IV. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
V. **MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**
VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

*Barrie C. Toves*
Committee Chairman

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**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
**RFP19-CHCC/CGC-RHC-012**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: April 18, 2019 TIME: 09:00AM**

"LUTA CRISIS COUNSELING PROGRAM"
**ROTA HEALTH CENTER**
**LUTA CRISIS COUNSELING PROGRAM**
**COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"**

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

---

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
**RFP19-CHCC/DPH-CCCP-011**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: April 22, 2019 TIME: 09:00AM**
**"COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CONTROL PROGRAM EVALUATOR"**
**DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH**
**COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CONTROL PROGRAM**
**COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"**

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

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**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**
Office of the Executive Director

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**
**CUC-RFP-19-017**

**ARCHEOLOGICAL MONITORING for**
**LOWER BASE SEWER PHASE 1 – LIFT STATION AND FORCEMAIN**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Archeological Monitoring of the Construction of Lower Base Sewer Phase 1 – Lift Station and Forcemain in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists monitoring and inspection of excavation works for the Lower Base Sewer Project. The consultant also will be required to document and create a final report acceptable by CUC and the CNMI Historical Preservation Office. CUC requires the Project to be completed as per the Request for Proposal (RFP) highlights from the date of award of contract.

**This project is funded by a grant from the United States Economic Development Authority (USEDA) and the Department of Interior (USDOI). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEDA and USDOI.**

Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set.

A Pre-Proposal Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **April 18, 2018 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. Prospective Proposers are mandated to attend the Pre-Proposal Conference and Site Visit.

**One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-19-017 Archeological Monitoring for Lower Base Sewer Phase 1 – Lift Station and Forcemain, " to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 10, 2019**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible Proposers who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing Proposers.

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 22th 2019**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator via email at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christie L. Sablan via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org CUC's Purchasing Assistant and to Travis Spaeth, CUC's Project Engineer via email at travis.spaeth@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

**GARY P. CAMACHO**
**Executive Director**

**MANNY B. SABLAN**
**Purchasing Administrator**

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIX, Issue No. 71

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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## EDITORIAL

# US must not resume separation of migrant families

Kirstjen Nielsen will forever be the face of one of the ugliest chapters in American history—the forced separation of migrant families at the Mexican border, and the detention of children torn from their families. She presided over the operation while initially denying it existed.

Nielsen is gone now, forced to resign as secretary of the Department of Homeland Security before she could be fired by tweet. But President Donald Trump, who suspended forced separation in June amid widespread condemnation, wants to bring it back. That cannot happen.

Forced separation was a horrifying spectacle. It traumatized parents and children. Imagine not knowing where your child is. And a child, not knowing whether he or she would see a loved one again. Many kids later reunited with their families remain tormented. Some were abused during confinement. Now federal officials say they can't identify thousands of separated children, more than previously believed, and might need up to two years to do so. That's unconscionable. The government must use whatever resources it needs to track down these kids for possible reunification. Some migrant parents sent back to their home countries still await their children's return.

Destroying lives cannot be what we as a nation do. When we rip children from parents, we betray the moral promise that made America a land of hope and tarnish our country on the world stage.

We understand Trump's frustration with illegal immigration. It has been an intractable problem for years. He had the contemptible hope that his separation policy would deter families from coming to the United States. But it hasn't. That's because life at home for many of them is intolerable; the only way to escape endemic violence and systemic poverty is to leave.

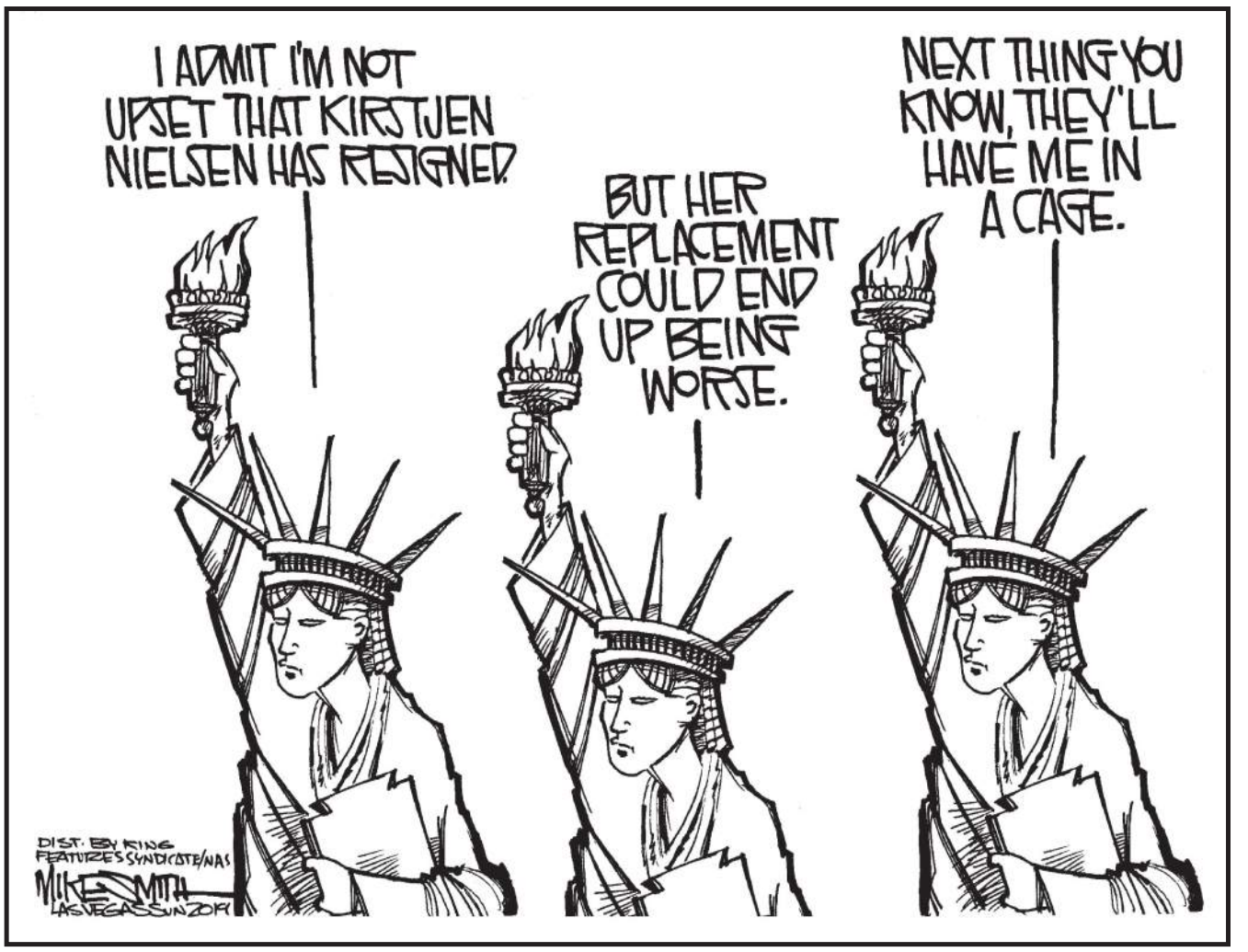
Many migrants are not trying to cross the border illegally; actual illegal crossings are historically low. The spike in arrests has been driven by those presenting themselves as asylum cases and asking to have their claims adjudicated. The system is overwhelmed, and on Monday, a judge blocked Trump's attempt to keep asylum-seekers in Mexico while their cases are heard.

Solving this problem will likely require a combination of steps, but it can never include forced separation. Democrats have pointed out the flaws in Trump's approach, but have not come up with a comprehensive solution themselves. That's not helping us find a path, either.

Stabilizing the nations of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras is essential to stem the flow, though Trump has vowed to cut aid to them. Adjudicating asylum claims more quickly, whether by hiring more judges or some other steps, is imperative.

Trump's new acting DHS secretary, Customs and Bor-

*See US on Next Page*


I ADMIT I'M NOT UPSET THAT KIRSTJEN NIELSEN HAS RESIGNED.
BUT HER REPLACEMENT COULD END UP BEING WORSE.
NEXT THING YOU KNOW, THEY'LL HAVE ME IN A CAGE.
DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/NAS
MIKE SMITH LASVEGASSUN.COM

# If your taxes are a complicated mess, you're not alone

**By JASON FICHTNER**
CQ-Roll Call

*Jason J. Fichtner is a fellow at the Bipartisan Policy Center and associate director of the Master of International Economics and Finance program at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.*

Washington, D.C., frequently gets wrapped up in debates over the tax code. Proposals for new wealth taxes, changes to marginal tax rates, or adjusting the estate tax capture the imagination of policy wonks. But such discussions often overlook the most important aspect of these policies—how the tax code is administered.

In practice, these administrative issues could make or break any attempt at reform, as well as the tax code as a whole. In a new paper for the Bipartisan Policy Center released today, Bill Gale, Jeff Trinca and I point to three fundamental issues with our tax system.

First, our tax system is too costly to comply with. Americans spend too much time, money and energy each year trying to understand and follow the tax code. By my estimate, the total economic loss (the costs of complying, lobbying and changed behavior) from the tax code may be up to a trillion dollars per year. This estimate was before the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, which has caused new confusion for many filers and may have made the code more complex.

Second, compliance is especially hard for filers claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit, an effective pro-work and anti-poverty program that I've advocated for improving. The EITC has a web of complex eligibility rules that can be hard for potential claimants to navigate and prove that they meet. How would you go about proving to the IRS, for example, that your child lived with you for at least six months last year?

Furthermore, lax oversight allows some fringe tax preparers to prey on low-income filers, which drives a significant share of improper EITC payments and can lead to penalties for the filer.

Third, it is too easy for some filers to evade their taxes. The most recent estimate, for 2008-2010, is that about $406 billion in taxes each year goes uncollected. Tax fraud crops up in cases like the recent college admissions scandal, contributing to Americans' general sense that loopholes and offshore accounts make it too easy for some taxpayers to wriggle out of what they owe. Ultimately, this shortfall must be made up for by those of us who do pay our taxes.

One underlying cause of all three issues is that Congress has chronically underfunded the IRS, reducing their budget by more than 15 percent since 2010. While to some this may sound like good politics, a lack of staff and resources hinders the agency's ability to catch tax cheats and to provide taxpayers with high levels of support, resulting in longer telephone wait times for taxpayers seeking assistance and only 0.5 percent of all returns audited in 2016.

Former IRS Commissioner John Koskinen estimates that up to 40 percent of the IRS workforce could retire this year, which will only further diminish the agency's institutional knowledge and ability.

To tackle the above issues, one broad reform that some have advocated would implement a "return-free" system, under which the IRS would prepare tax returns for Americans.

My co-authors and I argue that such a system would be unrealistic in the present day. While it would reduce the burden on taxpayers, a return-free system could not cover a substantial portion of filers without significant tax simplification, a solution to the IRS's long-term issues, and improvements to the taxpayer appeals process.

Under the current tax code, any potential return-free filing system would only cover those with the simplest returns (so no EITC claimants, no Uber drivers, etc.)—in other words, those who least need help preparing their taxes.

Regardless, my co-authors and I lay out several paths for reform. Some of these would simplify the system and strengthen programs like Volunteer Income Tax Preparation Assistance, reducing confusion for low-income filers and helping them accurately file their tax returns and receive any benefits they are eligible for.

Additional suggested reforms would improve the IRS, its staffing and training of personnel, and its processes—for example, applying behavioral nudges to improve compliance, as successfully demonstrated in other countries.

Some of these fixes are starting to gain traction. A recent Government Accountability Office report details recommendations

*See TAXES on Next Page*

**EDITORIAL POLICY** Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# Trump offers clarity on Iran's terrorist aims

**By ELI LAKE**
Bloomberg News

*Eli Lake is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering national security and foreign policy. He was the senior national security correspondent for the Daily Beast and covered national security and intelligence for the Washington Times, the New York Sun and UPI.*

For more than 30 years, successive U.S. administrations have called Iran what it is: a state sponsor of terrorism. Leaders of its military and intelligence agencies have been sanctioned, while the terror groups Iran supports have faced military action as well as sanctions.

Until now, however, the main organization responsible for founding, funding and training many of these groups has not been placed in the same category as its clients like Hezbollah. On Monday, President Donald Trump upended that precedent and designated Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, known as the IRGC, as a foreign terrorist organization.

This is a dramatic escalation with real consequences. There is a difference between saying a state is a sponsor of terrorism and calling an arm of a state an actual terrorist organization. The designation will make the IRGC even more financially toxic than it already is, says Mark Dubowitz, the chief executive of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies.

The threshold is now lower for proving that someone is providing material support to the IRGC. The designation also makes any non-Iranians who wittingly or unwittingly do business with the IRGC vulnerable to having their U.S. visas revoked. This is an even more powerful disincentive for Europeans to invest in Iran, says Dubowitz, because the IRGC's tentacles reach into most aspects of Iran's economy.

Since the 1979 Iranian revolution, the IRGC, and particularly its elite Quds Force, have been devoted to spreading that revolution abroad. Despite the efforts of past U.S. administrations, Iran has never ended its support for terrorist organizations. Indeed, following the completion of negotiations over Iran's nuclear program in 2015, the IRGC became even more aggressive in supporting terrorist proxies in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen.

All that said, there are two basic objections to this move. The first is that this designation may provoke Iran to target U.S. forces. Dan Coats, the director of national intelligence, obliquely made this point in testimony to Congress in January. "We assess that unprofessional interactions conducted by the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy against U.S. ships in the Persian Gulf, which have been less frequent during the past year, could resume should Iran seek to project an image of strength in response to U.S. pressure," he said. The New York Times reports similar worries among other top military and intelligence officials.

Make no mistake: These threats are real. Already, Iranian government officials have promised a response to the designation. The mistake is thinking that pressure alone is provocative to Tehran. So are entreaties. In the days leading up to the final implementation of the nuclear deal in 2016, for example, the IRGC briefly took U.S. sailors hostage and released a humiliating video of the incident after they were released.

The second objection is the designation further undermines the 2015 Iran nuclear deal. A progressive group chaired by alumni of the Obama administration made this point in a Twitter thread Monday. They say it's an effort to deter investment in Iran and possibly provoke the Iranians into breaking the deal's limits on uranium enrichment, with which they have largely abided since Trump vacated the deal nearly a year ago.

Some see this objection as a point in Trump's favor. "It makes it much more difficult for a Democratic president to go back into the Iran deal in 2021," says Dubowitz, who favors the designation. Any future administration would have to make a determination that the IRGC was out of the terrorism business.

Determining that the IRGC is no longer engaged in terrorism is about as likely as determining that the IRS is no longer engaged in collecting taxes. It's in the organization's nature. This is why Trump's statement said the designation "underscores the fact that Iran's actions are fundamentally different from those of other governments."

This is a point that the narrow nuclear agreement, by dealing only with Iran's nuclear program and not its support for terrorism, tried to evade. Now the U.S. government has formally recognized that a key part of Iran's military is legally indistinguishable from the terrorist groups it has been sponsoring for decades. Trump's strategy, unlike his predecessor's, begins with the premise that Iran is an outlaw state—and treats it as such until it changes its behavior.

# On Russia, Trump acted innocent

**By RICH LOWRY**
King Features Synd., Inc.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the* National Review.

The release of Robert Mueller's finding that Donald Trump didn't collude with Russia should settle a question his critics—and, quietly, some of his allies—have asked repeatedly over the past two years: Why was he acting so guilty?

It turns out that he was acting innocent, only in a typically combative, over-the-top Trump fashion.

The left and the media were never willing to credit the idea that Trump sincerely believed that he was being treated unfairly—because he was.

When Trump said in his infamous Lester Holt interview that the Trump-Russia thing "is a made-up story," he wasn't confessing to obstruction of justice; he was stating a fact that the Mueller probe would establish 2,800 subpoenas and nearly 500 search warrants later.

The prudent thing for Trump to do once the Mueller probe got going would have been to cooperate without complaint and bide his time awaiting his eventual vindication. Instead, Trump fought like a caged animal (while actually cooperating with the probe).

Trump is a creature of the media and cares a lot about what is said of him. So imagine him sitting in the White House and watching the media constantly suggest that a smoking-gun Russia-collusion revelation is just over the horizon, that the walls are closing in, that he might be guilty of one of the worst political crimes committed in the history of the republic—and all the while knowing that it wasn't true.

It's very easy to be relaxed about someone else's reputation. We saw this during the Kavanaugh controversy when progressives were outraged that Brett Kavanaugh got emotional about being falsely accused of gang rape. Trump, apparently, was supposed to be cool and nonplussed about being accused of treason.

Of course, he wasn't, and got caught in an endless feedback loop with the press. He'd be presumed guilty in the coverage, he'd lash out, and then commentators would take his reaction as further evidence he was guilty. For two long years.

As recently as a couple of weekends ago, an epic Trump tweetstorm was taken as a sign that he was completely panicked over the impending Mueller report.

It didn't occur to anyone that he might be acting out of a sense of aggrieved (although often self-defeating) innocence. This is what got the Mueller probe rolling in the first place. Trump fired James Comey because the FBI director refused to state publicly what he told Trump privately—that the president himself wasn't under investigation.

The fallback position of Democrats now is that they can get Trump for obstruction for all his impure thoughts about a probe that reached its conclusion unimpeded, and that found no underlying Russian collusion to cover up.

This was Watergate without the break-in and the Lewinsky affair without, well, the Lewinsky affair.

A news industry that should have a healthy skepticism could never apply any skepticism to its own narrative and assumptions. And so, on the question of Russia collusion that put a cloud over the White House and dominated the past two years of our public life, Donald Trump was a more reliable narrator than the media that so self-righteously scorns him.

RUSSIAN THREAT!
BY JOE "WHEN BESTIES ATTACK!" FOURNIER
VLADIMIR PUTIN EXPLAINS
RUSSIA WARNS THE UNITED STATES NOT TO PLACE MISSILES IN EUROPE UNLESS IT WANTS A CUBAN MISSILE-STYLE CRISIS!
THIS WARNING SHOULD STAND AS DEFINITIVE PROOF THAT PRESIDENT TRUMP IS HIS OWN MAN, HIS OWN LEADER, AND NOT SOME PUPPET CONTROLLED BY ME!
ALRIGHT?
S'ALRIGHT!
S'ALRIGHT?
S'ALRIGHT!
S'ALRIGHT?
S'ALRIGHT!
joe@joefournierstudios.com

## US

*From Page 10*

der Patrol head Kevin McAleenan, is reportedly considering a plan to give asylum-seekers the option of being separated from their children or going into long-term detention with them. It's a perverse Hobson's choice; a 1997 court ruling prohibits the long-term detention of migrant children.

Our endless immigration nightmare has endured for far too long. But cleaving families cannot be part of the solution. It's a despicable practice for migrants and for our nation. We can, and must, do better—for them and for ourselves.

**(c) 2019 *Newsday***

## TAXES

*From Page 10*

to tackle the IRS's staffing challenges, while the recently reintroduced Taxpayer First Act of 2019 permanently authorizes VITA and calls for a fundamental restructuring of the IRS.

None of these proposals is a panacea, and they are just a start toward fixing the longer-term problems facing the U.S. tax system. As attention is called to these issues, Congress should continue to work toward tax administration reforms that will lower costs, improve the experience for filers and prevent evasion.

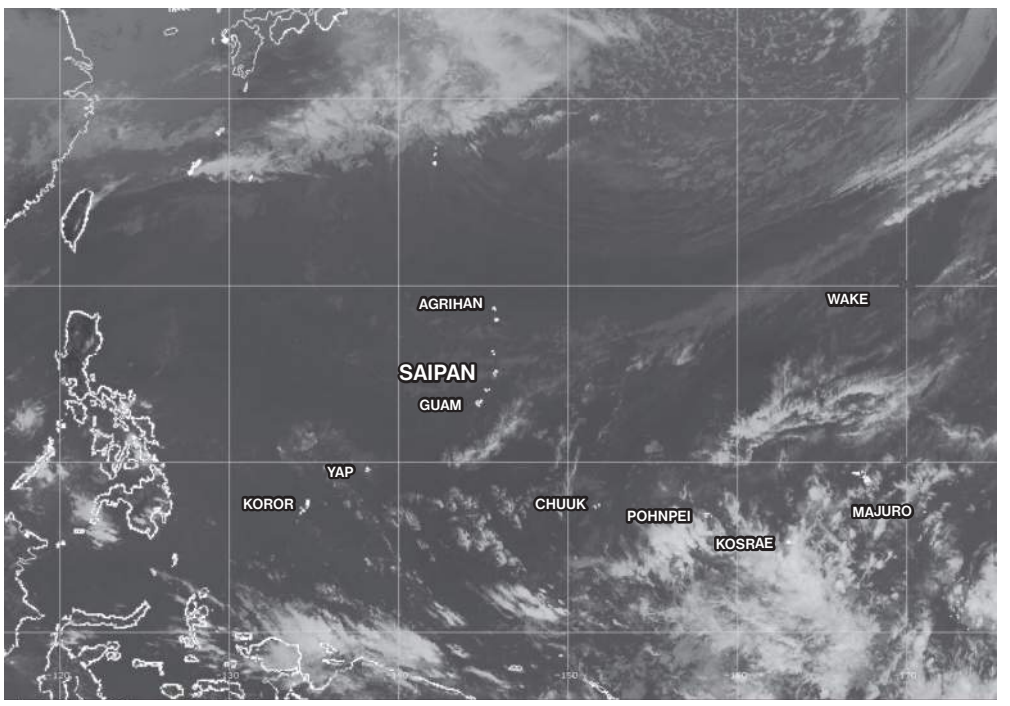
The Bipartisan Policy Center is a Washington, D.C.-based think tank that actively promotes bipartisanship. BPC works to address the key challenges facing the nation through policy solutions that are the product of informed deliberations by former elected and appointed officials, business and labor leaders, and academics and advocates from both ends of the political spectrum. BPC is currently focused on health, energy, national security, the economy, financial regulatory reform, housing, immigration, infrastructure, and governance.

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

| TODAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Partly cloudy. A slight chance of light showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph. | Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. |
| 89° 77° | 89° 77° | 88° 77° | 89° 77° | 89° 77° |

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE




**PICTURE TIME: 6:50 AM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019**
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar show generally shower and cloud-free conditions across the Marianas with the exception of a few low-level clouds and thin cirrus. A couple altimeter passes over the islands show seas right around 4 feet.

*Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/*

| MICRONESIA | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Partly Cloudy | 87° / 77° |
| Palau | Partly Cloudy | 85° / 77° |
| Yap | Partly Cloudy | 87° / 79° |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorms | 84° / 80° |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | 84° / 79° |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | 84° / 79° |
| Majuro | Showers | 84° / 79° |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Partly Cloudy | 66° / 54° |
| Beijing | Partly Cloudy | 68° / 37° |
| Hong Kong | Thunderstorms | 79° / 73° |
| Honolulu | Showers | 82° / 70° |
| London | Showers | 52° / 37° |
| Los Angeles | Mostly Sunny | 77° / 57° |
| Manila | Thunderstorms | 93° / 82° |
| Melbourne | Sunny | 75° / 54° |
| Miami | Mostly Sunny | 82° / 73° |
| New York | Partly Cloudy | 54° / 47° |
| Osaka | Partly Cloudy | 61° / 43° |
| Paris | Partly Cloudy | 57° / 36° |
| Busan | Mostly Sunny | 63° / 48° |
| Rome | Thunderstorms | 61° / 46° |
| Salem | Mostly Cloudy | 82° / 62° |
| San Francisco | Partly Cloudy | 61° / 50° |
| Seoul | Sunny | 63° / 37° |
| Tokyo | Mostly Cloudy | 55° / 43° |
| Washington, DC | Mostly Cloudy | 68° / 54° |

**NMI CRIME STOPPERS**
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY | | FEET |
|---|---|---|
| 12:15 AM | HIGH TIDE | 1.74 |
| 5:43 AM | LOW TIDE | 1.14 |
| 10:40 AM | HIGH TIDE | 1.74 |
| 6:12 PM | LOW TIDE | -0.11 |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:06 AM | 6:30 PM |
| Friday | 6:05 AM | 6:30 PM |
| Saturday | 6:04 AM | 6:31 PM |
| Sunday | 6:04 AM | 6:31 PM |
| Monday | 6:03 AM | 6:31 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Today | 10:30 AM | 11:48 PM | - |
| Friday | 11:26 AM | - | - |
| Saturday | - | 12:46 AM | 12:25 PM |
| Sunday | - | 1:42 AM | 1:26 PM |
| Monday | - | 2:35 AM | 2:27 PM |

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**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 1, 2019

### DEPARTURES

**SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA117 | 9:15am | 9:56am | Daily |
| UA105 | 6:25pm | 7:05pm | 2, 4 |

**SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3451 | 3:10am | 6:10am | 1, 3, 5, 7 |
| 7C3451 | 3:30am | 6:30am | 4 |

**SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| TW308 | 1:35am | 5:20am | 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| OZ626 | 2:20am | 6:00am | 1 |
| OZ626 | 2:50am | 6:30am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| 7C3403 | 4:35am | 8:25am | Daily |
| 7C3401 | 4:30pm | 8:25pm | Daily |

**SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8648 | 6:10am | 8:50am | 1, 4, 5, 7 |

**SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| JD396 | 7:30am | 11:00am | 1 |
| JD396 | 4:50pm | 7:55pm | 4 |

**SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8646 | 4:30am | 7:55am | 2, 6 |

**SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| MU764 | 1:30am | 6:35am | 3, 5, 7 |

**SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA117/183 | 9:15am | 8:50pm | 2, 5 via GUM |
| UA117/183 | 9:15am | 9:10pm | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM |
| UA117/1939:15am | | 10:40pm | 2, 5 via GUM-ROR |

**SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| HX077 | 1:50am | 5:15am | 1, 4 |
| OZ626/721 | 2:20am | 11:40am | 1 via ICN |
| OZ626/721 | 2:50am | 11:40am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| UO43 | 5:35am | 8:25am | 1 |
| UO43 | 5:50am | 8:40am | 3, 5, 7 |
| UA117/159 | 9:15am | 9:50pm | 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM |

### ARRIVALS

**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA174 | 7:30am | 8:12am | Daily |
| UA104 | 4:50pm | 5:31pm | 2, 4 |

**BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3452 | 9:05pm | 2:10am+1 | 2, 4, 6, 7 |
| 7C3452 | 9:35pm | 2:30am+1 | 3 |

**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3402 | 10:10am | 3:30pm | Daily |
| TW307 | 7:00pm | 12:35am+1 | 2, 3, 5, 6 |
| TW307 | 7:05pm | 12:35am+1 | 1 |
| OZ625 | 7:40pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 |
| OZ625 | 8:15pm | 1:45am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| 7C3404 | 10:10pm | 3:40am+1 | Daily |

**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8647 | 10:20pm | 4:50am+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |

**HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| JD395 | 8:05am | 3:30pm | 4 |
| JD395 | 9:35pm | 5:00am+1 | 7 |

**GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8645 | 7:55pm | 2:40am+1 | 1, 5 |

**BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| MU763 | 3:55pm | 12:30am+1 | 2, 4, 6 |

**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA192/174 | 9:45pm | 8:12am+1 | 2, 5 via GUM-ROR |
| UA184/174 | 10:25pm | 8:12am+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM |
| UA184/174 | 11:30pm | 8:12am+1 | 2, 5 via GUM |

**HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ722/625 | 1:10pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ722/625 | 1:10pm | 1:45am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| HX076 | 5:15pm | 00:15am+1 | 3, 7 |
| UO42 | 6:25pm | 1:20am+1 | 7 |
| UO42 | 9:25pm | 4:20am+1 | 2, 4, 6 |
| UA116/174 | 10:45pm | 8:12am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

**SAIPAN TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1301 | 7:30AM | 8:00AM | Daily |
| 1302 | 11:30AM | 12:00PM | Daily |
| 1303 | 4:00PM | 4:30PM | Daily |

**ROTA TO SAIPAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3101 | 8:15AM | 8:45AM | Daily |
| 3102 | 1:45PM | 2:15PM | Daily |
| 3103 | 4:45PM | 5:15PM | Daily |

**ROTA TO GUAM**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3401 | 12:15PM | 12:45PM | Daily |

**GUAM TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4301 | 1:00PM | 1:30PM | Daily |

**SAIPAN TO TINIAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1201 | 7:00AM | 7:15AM | Daily |
| 1202 | 8:00AM | 8:15AM | Daily |
| 1203 | 9:00AM | 9:15AM | Daily |
| 1204 | 10:00AM | 10:15AM | Daily |
| 1205 | 11:00AM | 11:15AM | Daily |
| 1206 | 12:00PM | 12:15PM | Daily |
| 1207 | 1:00PM | 1:15PM | Daily |
| 1208 | 2:00PM | 2:15PM | Daily |
| 1209 | 3:00PM | 3:15PM | Daily |
| 1210 | 4:00PM | 4:15PM | Daily |
| 1211 | 5:00PM | 5:15PM | Daily |
| 1212 | 6:00PM | 6:15PM | Daily |

**TINIAN TO SAIPAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2102 | 7:30AM | 7:45AM | Daily |
| 2103 | 8:30AM | 8:45AM | Daily |
| 2104 | 9:30AM | 9:45AM | Daily |
| 2105 | 10:30AM | 10:45AM | Daily |
| 2106 | 11:30AM | 11:45AM | Daily |
| 2107 | 12:30PM | 12:45PM | Daily |
| 2108 | 1:30PM | 1:45PM | Daily |
| 2109 | 2:30PM | 2:45PM | Daily |
| 2110 | 3:30PM | 3:45PM | Daily |
| 2111 | 4:30PM | 4:45PM | Daily |
| 2112 | 5:30PM | 5:45PM | Daily |
| 2113 | 6:30PM | 6:45PM | Daily |

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MARCO PILLOW (L585*W362*H114MM) $14.95

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# Business

## Feds charge 2 dozen in billion-dollar Medicare brace scam

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Federal agents on Tuesday broke up a billion-dollar Medicare scam that peddled unneeded orthopedic braces to hundreds of thousands of seniors. Two dozen people were charged, including doctors accused of writing bogus prescriptions.

The Justice Department said the scheme relied on overseas call centers to pry Medicare numbers from beneficiaries. Authorities also announced charges against owners of call centers, telemedicine firms and medical equipment companies that shipped unneeded back, shoulder, wrist and knee braces.

Profits from the scheme were laundered through offshore shell companies and then used to buy high-end cars, yachts and luxury homes here and abroad, officials said.

Medicare's anti-fraud unit said it's taking action against 130 medical equipment companies implicated. The companies billed the program a total of $1.7 billion, but not all of it was paid out.

The loss to Medicare was estimated at more than $1.2 billion.

The Health and Human Services inspector general's office said the fast-moving scam was fueled by kickbacks among the parties involved. The FBI, the IRS and 17 U.S. attorney's offices took part in the crackdown.

"The telemedicine we are talking about is basically a tele-scam," said Gary Cantrell, who oversees fraud investigations for the HHS inspector general's office. "We are not talking about the use of advanced technology to provide better access to care."

Officials said the scam was detected last summer as complaints from beneficiaries poured in to the Medicare fraud hotline.

They said telemarketers would reach out to seniors offering "free" orthopedic braces, also touted through television and radio ads. Interested beneficiaries would be patched through to call centers, part of what officials described as an "international telemarketing network" with operations in the Philippines and throughout Latin America.

After verifying Medicare coverage, the seniors would be transferred to telemedicine companies for consultations with doctors, who wrote prescriptions for orthopedic braces, regardless of whether the patients needed them or not. Sometimes the same patient would get several braces.

AP

In this photo provided by the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, HHS Office of Inspector General agents, and other law enforcement officers, take part in arrests Tuesday, April 9, 2019, in Queens, N.Y.

The call centers would collect prescriptions and sell them to medical equipment companies, which would ship the braces to beneficiaries and bill Medicare. Medical equipment companies would get $500 to $900 per brace from Medicare and would pay kickbacks of nearly $300 per brace.

Officials said it's one of the biggest frauds the inspector general's office has seen. Charges were being brought against defendants in California, Florida, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Texas. Cantrell said federal agents had gained cooperation from people familiar with the various schemes.

"The breadth of this nationwide conspiracy should be frightening to all who rely on some form of health care," IRS criminal investigations chief Don Fort said in a statement. "The conspiracy ... details broad corruption, massive amounts of greed and systemic flaws in our health care system that were exploited by the defendants."

Attempts to reach defendants named by the Justice Department were unsuccessful. In several cases telephone numbers associated with the individuals were disconnected. Others did not respond to messages.

The investigation is continuing. Authorities asked doctors who have been involved with telemedicine and medical equipment fraud to voluntarily come forward.

Health care fraud is a pervasive problem that costs taxpayers tens of billions of dollars a year. The true extent of it is unknown, and some cases involve gray areas of complex payment policies.

Experts say part of the problem is that Medicare is required to pay medical bills promptly, which means money often goes out before potential frauds get flagged. Investigators call that "pay and chase."

In recent years, Medicare has tried to adapt techniques used by credit card companies to head off fraud. Law enforcement coordination has grown, with strike forces of federal prosecutors and agents, along with state counterparts, specializing in health care investigations.

Officials said the government has options to recoup at least some of the money lost to Medicare, including seizing fraudsters' assets and accounts, as well as property purchased with the proceeds of the scam.

The Medicare beneficiaries drawn into the orthopedic braces scam didn't have to pay anything up front, but Cantrell said they have been harmed as well: A beneficiary's private information, once in the hands of fraudsters, can be resold for many illegal purposes.

Additionally, if a beneficiary whose information was misused ever does need an orthopedic brace, he or she may encounter waiting periods from Medicare. The program limits how often it pays for certain supplies and equipment.

## Boeing orders and deliveries tumble as Max jet is grounded

**DALLAS** (AP)—Boeing failed to win any orders for its 737 Max airliner in March as scrutiny of the plane increased following a second deadly crash in less than five months.

Deliveries of finished Max jets also tumbled, to 11 from 26 in February. That was not surprising—Boeing suspended deliveries in mid-March after regulators around the world ordered the plane grounded.

Boeing's report Tuesday on orders and deliveries came just three days after the company announced that it will cut production of 737s from 52 a month to 42. Meanwhile, airlines that own the nearly 400 grounded Max jets are canceling flights.

The damage to Boeing could be temporary, however, if the company can complete a fix to key software on the Max and reassure regulators and passengers that it is a safe plane.

Many analysts believe the deliveries will only be delayed, not lost forever, unless airlines cancel orders for the plane.

The figures on March orders and deliveries are "secondary to getting the Max fix approved and its grounding lifted," Cowen aircraft analyst Cai von Rumohr said.

The plane was grounded when an Ethiopian Airlines Max crashed March 10, less than five months after a Lion Air Max plunged into the sea off the coast of Indonesia. In all, 346 people died.

Boeing has acknowledged that in each crash, a faulty sensor triggered an anti-stall system when it wasn't needed, pushing the plane's nose down. Pilots on each flight fought unsuccessfully to regain control, according to flight data retrieved from the planes.

The company is still working on the software update, which was delayed recently by several weeks because of the discovery of a second software problem. Boeing hasn't described the second issue but says it is not related to the anti-stall system.

So far, most of Wall Street and Boeing's airline customers have publicly stood behind the company during its crisis. Boeing hasn't disclosed any lost orders, although Garuda Indonesia has said it will cancel an order for 49 Max jets. Boeing has a backlog of about 4,600 orders for the plane.

Delta Air Lines neither owns nor has any orders for the Max—most of its pending orders are with Boeing's rival, Airbus. But Delta CEO Ed Bastian said he remains confident in Boeing's technological prowess and is interested if Boeing decides to build a new plane bigger than the 737.

## Trump order would make it harder to block pipelines

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—President Donald Trump will announce an executive order during a trip to Texas on Wednesday that could make it harder for states to scuttle pipelines and other energy projects based on concerns about their impact on water quality.

Trump has made it a priority to expand energy development in the United States, in part, by rolling back government regulations.

Pointing to Washington state and New York, Republican lawmakers have complained about states using the permitting process to stop energy projects. A senior administration official told reporters there are problems with the way some states are interpreting Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Under that section, companies must obtain certification from the state before moving ahead with an energy project.

Washington state blocked the building of a coal terminal. New York regulators stopped a natural gas pipeline when they determined it failed to meet standards to protect streams, wetlands and other water resources.

Trump's executive order calls for the Environmental Protection Agency to consult with states, tribes and relevant agencies and issue updated guidance for the states to follow to comply with the intent of the landmark act.

The order will also call on the Transportation Department to propose a rule that would allow liquefied natural gas to be shipped in approved rail tank cars.

The second executive order Trump will announce Wednesday streamlines the process for energy infrastructure that crosses international borders.

Currently, the secretary of state has the authority to issue permits for cross-border infrastructure such as pipelines. The executive order clarifies that the president will make the decision on whether to issue such permits.

The move follows Trump's decision last month to issue a new presidential permit for the long-stalled Keystone XL oil pipeline — two years after he first approved it and more than a decade after it was first proposed.

**STOCK PORTFOLIO**

**LEADING INDICATORS**

| S&P | DOW | NASDAQ |
|---|---|---|
| 2,878.20 | 26,150.58 | 7,909.28 |
| -17.57 | -190.44 | -44.61 |
| -0.61% | -0.72% | -0.56% |

**EXCHANGE RATES**

In U.S. dollar terms

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Australian Dollar | 1.40 | Hong Kong Dollar | 7.83 | Russian Ruble | 64.85 |
| British Pound | 0.7656 | Indian Rupee | 69.16 | Singapore Dollar | 1.35 |
| Canadian Dollar | 1.33 | Japanese Yen | 111.12 | South Korean Won | 1,119.40 |
| Chinese Yuan | 6.71 | Malaysian Ringgit | 4.10 | Swiss Franc | 1.00 |
| Euro | 0.8877 | New Zealand Dollar | 1.48 | Taiwan Dollar | 30.32 |
| | | Philippine Peso | 50.98 | Thailand Baht | 31.77 |

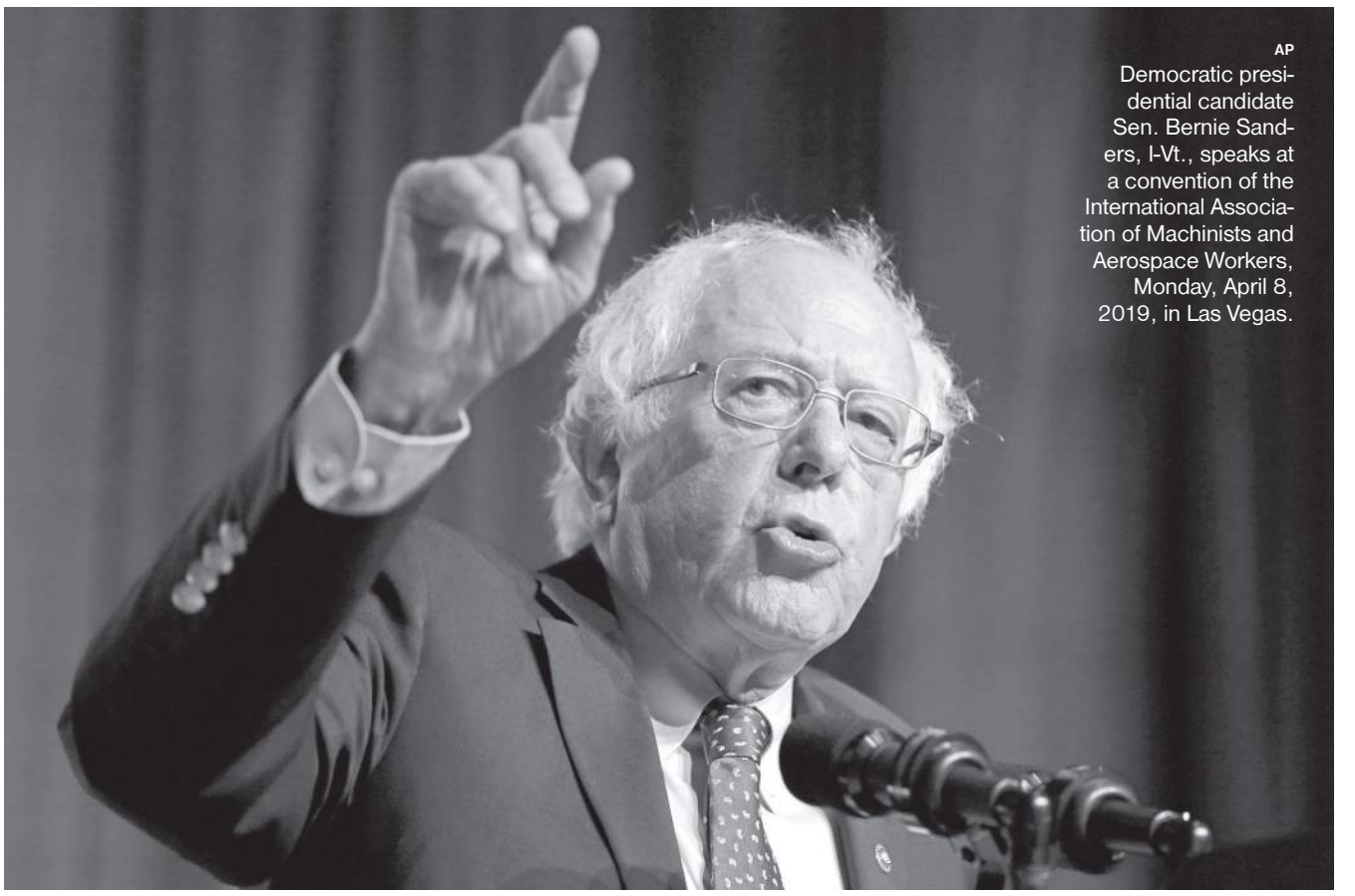
# Nation

## Sanders relaunches 'Medicare for All' amid 2020 glare

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont will unveil a new version of his "Medicare for All" plan on Wednesday, shaking up the 2020 presidential election by reopening the debate over his call to eliminate private health insurance.

Four of Sanders' fellow senators and rivals for the Democratic nomination are set to sign onto the updated single-payer health care proposal. The bill's reintroduction promises to shine a bright light on Democratic presidential candidates' disparate visions for the long-term future of American health care.

Under fire from President Donald Trump and Republicans for the astronomical price tag of Medicare for All, some candidates who support the plan tout it as one of several ways to achieve more affordable coverage and lower the number of uninsured. And others who don't back it are instead focusing on safeguarding popular provisions of the Affordable Care Act, such as the one that protects coverage of pre-existing conditions.



AP
Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., speaks at a convention of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, Monday, April 8, 2019, in Las Vegas.

"Of course, our No. 1 goal should be to make sure we keep in place those protections so people don't get kicked off their insurance," Sen. Amy Klobuchar, a Minnesota Democrat who isn't signed onto Sanders' bill, told reporters Tuesday. "Then we also have to see the Affordable Care Act as a beginning and not an end."

Klobuchar supports a so-called public option, versions of which would allow Americans to buy into Medicare or Medicaid. Four other Democratic senators also running for president — Elizabeth Warren, Cory Booker, Kamala Harris and Kirsten Gillibrand — back Sanders' single-payer plan, which would replace the current mix of private and government health insurance in the U.S. with a new system run by the government. But they have also signed onto at least one version of a public option.

Warren pointed to "a lot of different pathways" to universal coverage during a televised CNN town hall last month. "What we're all looking for is the lowest cost way to make sure that everybody gets covered."

The debate is unfolding in the early stages of a Democratic primary in which some candidates have pointed to their support of Medicare for All to prove their progressive bona fides. But other Democratic contenders, including former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, have criticized Sanders' measure as politically infeasible.

Under Medicare for All, Americans would no longer pay premiums or face insurance deductibles as the government-run system replaced private health insurance offered through employers, the mainstay of coverage for more than 160 million Americans.

Big tax increases would be needed to finance such a system. The transition is likely to be complicated, dismantling the private health insurance industry and making major changes for hospitals, doctors, drug companies and other medical providers.

"What our system does is get rid of insurance companies and drug companies making billions of dollars in profit every single year," Sanders told CBS News for an interview set to air Wednesday, adding that private insurance would largely exist solely for elective medical care such as cosmetic surgery.

## Woman lived to 99 with most organs on wrong side of body

**SALEM, Ore.** (AP)—Rose Marie Bentley was an avid swimmer, raised five kids, helped her husband run a feed store, and lived to the ripe age of 99. It was only after she died that medical students discovered that all her internal organs—except for her heart—were in the wrong place.

The discovery of the rare condition, which was presented this week to a conference of anatomists, was astounding—especially because Bentley had lived so long. People with the condition known as situs inversus with levocardia often have life-threatening cardiac ailments and other abnormalities, according to Oregon Health & Science University.

Cameron Walker's class at the university in Portland was examining the heart of a cadaver last year when they noticed the blood vessels were different. When they opened the abdominal cavity, they saw that all the other organs were on the wrong side. The unusual blood vessels helped the heart compensate.

In a telephone interview Tuesday, Walker described his reaction to the find as "definitely a mix of curiosity, fascination and a sense of wanting to explore a little bit of a medical mystery—a medical marvel really—that was in front of us."

"And I would say the students felt something very similar," Walker, an assistant professor of anatomy, told The Associated Press.

Bentley's family had not known about the condition, which OHSU says occurs only once in every 22,000 births. Apparently Bentley didn't either.

Bentley, who lived in Molalla, 25 miles (40 kilometers) south of Portland, had led a normal life. Her only recurrent physical complaint was arthritis, her daughter Louise Allee remembered.

But there were signs.

When Bentley was in her 50s, she underwent a hysterectomy, and the doctor also wanted to remove the appendix but couldn't find it, Allee said in a phone interview. She said it was removed later. Oregon Health & Science University noted that Bentley had three organs removed during her life, but only the surgeon who removed her appendix recorded its unusual location.

When Bentley had her gallbladder removed, it was on the opposite side of where it should have been, Allee said.

"No one said a thing," Allee said. "I was surprised. This was before they did it with a scope, and she had a good-sized incision. You'd think they would have said something, but they didn't."

Walker expressed his gratitude for Bentley agreeing to donate her body to OHSU, Oregon's only academic health center.

"This is an important case that really gave us an opportunity to talk about the importance of future clinicians paying attention to subtle anatomic variations, not just large anatomic variations, in terms of addressing their future patients as individuals," Walker said. "Don't judge a book by its cover, and always check and see what you've got before you talk about care."

He has researched how long people with the condition have lived, and he found no documented cases in which a person lived beyond age 73. Bentley surpassed that by 26 years.

Allee said her mother would have been delighted that the donation of her body led to a learning experience.

## Suit filed over gun controls inspired by synagogue shooting

**PITTSBURGH** (AP)—Gun rights groups sued Tuesday to block Pittsburgh from enforcing firearms legislation passed after a mass shooting at a synagogue, accusing city officials of blatantly defying the state's prohibition on municipal gun regulation.

Democratic Mayor Bill Peduto signed the bills into law in a ceremony at the City-County Building, declaring the community had come together "to say enough is enough." City officials said they had to act because the Republican-controlled Pennsylvania Legislature—which is planning to hold a memorial service for the victims this week—will not.

"We are going to take some action, we are going to do something positive and, yes, it is going to be everlasting," said Peduto, surrounded by gun-control advocates and members of three congregations that were targeted in the shooting rampage at Tree of Life Synagogue. "Change only happens when you challenge the status quo."

Minutes later, a coalition of gun rights groups sued to get the newly minted laws overturned, calling them "patently unenforceable, unconstitutional, illegal." Shortly after that, a second lawsuit, this one backed by the National Rifle Association, declared that "Pittsburgh has violated the rights of its citizens."

"Worse yet, Pittsburgh has committed this violation without any realistic prospect of diminishing the ... incidence of horrific mass shootings," said the suit, filed by four city residents. "All it will do is leave law-abiding citizens more vulnerable to attack from better-armed and more ruthless assailants."

The new legislation restricts military-style assault weapons like the AR-15 rifle authorities say was used in the Oct. 27 massacre that killed 11 and wounded seven. It also bans most uses of armor-piercing ammunition and high-capacity magazines and allows the temporary seizure of guns from people who are determined to be a danger to themselves or others. The first two laws are due to take effect in 60 days, the imminent-danger law in 180 days.

Whether the city will be able to enforce them is an open question. State law has long prohibited municipalities from regulating the ownership or possession of guns or ammunition, and courts have thrown out other local firearms measures, including a 1990s-era assault weapons ban in Pittsburgh.

But city leaders said they were eager to take on the fight, given the Legislature's traditional reluctance to pass gun legislation.

"This fantasy that somehow the state is going to step up and help us is simply not going to happen," said Council President Bruce Kraus.

The bill signing took place as state lawmakers prepared to come together for a memorial service for the Tree of Life victims. The unusual joint session at the Capitol in Harrisburg on Wednesday will bring together the House and Senate for prayers and speeches about the attack. Peduto's spokesman said the timing was coincidental.

The Pittsburgh bills—proposed not long after the deadliest attack on Jews in U.S. history—were weakened ahead of City Council passage in an effort to make them more likely to survive a court challenge. While one of the bills originally included an outright ban on assault weapons, the revised measure bars the "use" of assault weapons in public places.

# Asia

## Japan lifts evacuation in parts of Fukushima plant hometown

AP
This April 9, 2019, photo shows central area of Okuma town, Fukushima. Japan has partially lifted an evacuation order in one of the two hometowns of the tsunami-wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant for the first time since the 2011 disaster.

**TOKYO** (AP)—Japan partially lifted an evacuation order in one of the two hometowns of the tsunami-wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant on Wednesday for the first time since the 2011 disaster.

Decontamination efforts have lowered radiation levels significantly in the area about 7 kilometers (4 miles) southwest of the plant where three reactors had meltdowns due to the damage caused by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

The action allows people to return to about 40 percent of Okuma. The other hometown, Futaba, remains off-limits, as are several other towns nearby.

Many former residents are reluctant to return as the complicated process to safely decommission the plant continues. Opponents of lifting the evacuation orders in long-abandoned communities say the government is promoting residents' return to showcase safety ahead of the Tokyo Olympics next summer.

The government has pushed for an aggressive decontamination program by removing topsoil, chopping trees and washing down houses and roads in contaminated areas, though experts say the effort only caused the contamination to move from one place to another, creating massive amounts of radioactive waste and the need for its long-term storage.

The meltdowns at three of Fukushima Dai-ichi's six reactors caused massive radiation leaks that contaminated the plant's surroundings, forcing at its peak some 160,000 people to evacuate their homes for areas elsewhere in Fukushima or outside the prefecture.

Evacuation orders in most of the initial no-go zones have been lifted, but restrictions are still in place in several towns closest to the plant and to its northwest, which were contaminated by radioactive plumes from the plant soon after its meltdowns. More than 40,000 people were still unable to return home as of March, including Okuma's population of 10,000.

Town officials say the lifting of the evacuation order in the two districts would encourage the area's recovery.

"We are finally standing on a starting line of reconstruction," Okuma mayor Toshitsuna Watanabe told reporters.

A new town hall is opening in the Ogawara district in May and 50 new houses and a convenience store is underway. But the town center near a main train station remains closed due to radiation levels still exceeding the annual exposure limit and a hospital won't be available for two more years, requiring returnees to drive or take a bus to a neighboring town in case of medical needs.

Anti-nuclear sentiment and concerns about radiation exposures remain high in Japan since the disaster, leaving many people skeptical about the safety declaration by the government and utility operators, as risks of developing cancer and other illnesses from low-dose, long-term radiation exposures are still unknown. Critics also say that the annual exposure limit of 20 millisievert, the same as nuclear workers and up from 1 millisievert before the Fukushima meltdowns, is too high.

Many people are reluctant to return home because of lingering concerns about radiation, and they have adapted to new jobs and homes after more than eight years away.

## Before India's elections, voters feed on false information

**NEW DELHI** (AP)—New Delhi shop owner Ram Shankar Rai spends at least two hours a day going through political news and videos shared with him on social media.

Rai looked intently at a flurry of videos and photos on WhatsApp about an Indian airstrike in Pakistan, including pictures labeled as militants' corpses.

There was just one problem: The photos were not of militants but of casualties of a 2005 earthquake that killed thousands of people in Pakistan.

But the 50-year-old didn't see anything amiss. "It's news," he said. "How can it be fake?"

Before the world's largest democracy starts voting Thursday in a phased election carried out over six weeks, this attitude is posing a problem for election officials seeking to combat the spread of fake news among a population that experts say has proven highly susceptible to believing it.

Despite efforts by India's Election Commission to work with social media giants, urging them to tackle the spread of misinformation, at least one former top election official is warning that fake news could end up being the deciding factor in some constituencies with extremely tight races.

The election is already taking place in a charged atmosphere as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party seeks a second term by pushing policies that some say have increased religious tensions and undermined multiculturalism.

The opposition Congress party, which is also spending sizable sums of money on social media ads, is trying to revive its past glory and turn around a declining voter base.

Tackling fake news is a huge challenge in India, a nation with 1.14 billion cellphone connections, the most Facebook users in the world at 300 million, and another 240 million users of the messaging service WhatsApp. In such an environment, fake news can spread faster than regulators can act.

Watchdogs say in the run-up to the vote they've seen everything from manipulated pictures being picked up by mainstream news media, to misrepresented quotes sparking communal division, false news and hateful propaganda. And it looks like people are buying it.

Indian internet users, many of whom are relatively new to the web, may lack the awareness of knowing that "just because it's on a screen does not mean it's true," said Apar Gupta, who runs an advocacy group called the Internet Freedom Foundation.

India's problem with fake news isn't new, though, and it has already proven to have deadly consequences. In late 2018, at least 20 people were killed in mob attacks that were triggered by rumors on social media of strangers abducting children from villages.

## ASIAN BRIEFS

### Japanese air force stealth fighter jet crashes in Pacific

**TOKYO** (AP)—A Japanese air force F-35 stealth fighter crashed in the Pacific Ocean during a night training flight and parts of the jet were recovered, the defense ministry said Wednesday. The pilot is still missing. The F-35A stealth jet disappeared from radar while flying off the eastern coast of Aomori. Parts of the jet were found late Tuesday, the Air Self-Defense Force said. It went missing about half an hour after taking off from the Misawa air base with three other F-35As. Defense Minister Takeshi Iwaya told reporters the cause of the crash was not immediately known. He said 12 other F-35s at the Misawa base would be grounded. The pilot is a man in his 40s, Iwaya said. Japan started deploying the expensive U.S.-made F-35s since last year, part of its plan to bolster its defense spending and weapons capability in the coming years to counter potential threats from North Korea and China. Under guidelines approved in December, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government plans to buy 147 F-35s, including 105 F-35As, costing about 10 billion yen ($90 million) each.

### Dalai Lama hospitalized with chest infection, feeling better

**NEW DELHI** (AP)—The Dalai Lama has been hospitalized in the Indian capital with a chest infection and is feeling better, his spokesman said Wednesday. The 83-year-old Tibetan spiritual leader is under medication and likely to spend a day or two in the hospital, spokesman Tenzin Taklha said. The Dalai Lama flew from Dharmsala for consultations with doctors in the capital and was hospitalized on Tuesday. The north Indian hill town has been his headquarters since he fled Tibet in 1959 following a failed uprising against Chinese rule. Takhla said the Dalai Lama was feeling much better now. He usually spends several months a year traveling the world to teach Buddhism and highlight the Tibetans' struggle for greater freedom in China. He addressed a conference of educators and students in New Delhi last week. Answering a question related to Tibet's future with China, he reiterated that he is not seeking independence for Tibet, but would prefer a "reunion" with China under mutually acceptable terms.

### US forces: 3 Marines killed, Afghan contractor wounded

**KABUL, Afghanistan** (AP)—U.S. forces in Afghanistan revised on Tuesday the death toll from a Taliban attack the previous day near the main American base in the country, saying three service members were killed but not a contractor who was initially reported among the fatalities. The U.S. and NATO Resolute Support mission issued a statement "to clarify initial reporting" about Monday's roadside bombing of an American convoy near the main U.S. base. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack. The Pentagon said later that all three service members killed were Marines. The mission said a roadside bomb hit the convoy near the Bagram Airfield, killing three American service members, and said "the contractor who was reported as killed, is alive." The statement said "the contractor, an Afghan citizen, was initially treated along with other injured civilians, later identified as a contractor and treated at Bagram Airfield." Three other U.S. service members were also wounded in the attack. The base in Bagram district is located in northern Parwan province and serves as the main U.S. air facility in the country. The wounded were evacuated and are receiving medical care, the statement said. Christopher Slutman, a 15-year New York City fire department member, was among the three Marines killed. He leaves behind his wife, Shannon, and three daughters.

# World

# Netanyahu appears to edge toward re-election in Israeli vote

**JERUSALEM** (AP)—Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appeared to be headed toward re-election early Wednesday, as exit polls and partial results showed him edging ahead of his main competitor in a tight race that was seen as a referendum on the long-serving leader.

Both Netanyahu and former military chief Benny Gantz, leader of the rival Blue and White party, declared victory in speeches to boisterous gatherings of supporters. But as the night went on, there were growing signs that Netanyahu's Likud was pulling ahead.

With a victory, Netanyahu would capture a fourth consecutive term and fifth overall, which this summer will make him Israel's longest-ever serving leader. Perhaps more crucially, re-election will give him an important boost as he braces for the likelihood of criminal charges in a series of corruption scandals.

The 69-year-old prime minister has been the dominant force in Israeli politics for the past two decades and its face to the world. His campaign has focused heavily on his friendship with President Donald Trump and his success in cultivating new allies, such as China, India and Brazil.

But the corruption scandals created some voter fatigue. Along with two other former military chiefs on his ticket, Gantz was able to challenge Netanyahu on security issues, normally the prime minister's strong suit, while also taking aim at the prime minister's alleged ethical lapses.

Israel's attorney general has recommended charging Netanyahu with bribery, breach of trust and fraud. The telegenic Gantz, who has been vague on key policy fronts, has presented himself as a clean, scandal-free alternative to Netanyahu.

Initial exit poll results by Israel's main TV stations showed the two parties far ahead of all of the other competitors in the race and indicated that Blue and White would emerge as the largest party.

"Elections have losers and elections have winners. And we are the winners," Gantz told a victory rally shortly after midnight.

He vowed to change the tone of Israel's divisive political system and "be the prime minister of everyone, not just the ones who voted for me."

But as results trickled in throughout the night, the Likud appeared to be gaining strength. With over 90 percent of the votes counted, Likud held a narrow lead over Blue and White, with Netanyahu's parties expected to take 37 seats—one more than Gantz.

Though both parties were well short of a majority in the 120-seat parliament, the polls showed Likud and its religious and nationalist allies controlling a solid majority.

"It's a night of tremendous victory," Netanyahu told his own victory rally. "I was very moved that the nation of Israel once again entrusted me for the fifth time, and with an even greater trust."

He said he had already begun talking to fellow right wing and religious parties about forming a new coalition.

"I want to make it clear, it will be a right-wing government, but I intend to be the prime minister of all Israeli citizens, right or left, Jews and non-Jews alike," he said.

The message was a sharp contrast from his campaign theme in which he accused Gantz of conspiring with Arab parties to topple him. Arab leaders accused Netanyahu of demonizing the country's Arab community, which is about 20 percent of the population.

His attacks on the Arab sector fueled calls for a boycott, and appeared to result in relatively low turnout by Arab voters. Israel's central elections commission banned parties from bringing cameras into polling stations after Likud party activists were caught with hidden cameras in Arab towns.

The final results are subject to change. Some 40 parties took part in the election, and only those that receive at least 3.25% of the votes make it into parliament.

AP

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu waves to his supporters after polls for Israel's general elections closed in Tel Aviv, Israel, Wednesday, April 10, 2019.

## WORLD BRIEFS

### Sudanese activists: 14 more killed in clashes with police

**CAIRO** (AP)—Sudanese security forces tried again to break up an anti-government sit-in outside military headquarters in the capital, Khartoum, killing at least 14 people Tuesday, activists behind the demonstration said. The deaths brought the total number of fatalities in the sit-in since the weekend to 22, including five soldiers, according to the activists. The demonstration is the latest in nearly four months of anti-government protests that have plunged Sudan into its worst crisis in years. What initially erupted late last year as rallies against a spiraling economy quickly escalated into calls for an end to President Omar al-Bashir's 30-year rule. On Monday, for the first time, leaders of the protests called on the military's leadership to abandon al-Bashir and join their call for change. And on Tuesday, they invited military leaders to meet with their representatives to "discuss arrangements for a transition" in Sudan. Maj. Gen. Ahmed Khalifa al-Shami, a spokesman for the military, said the military has nothing to do with political matters and authorities ordered the protest to be broken up.

### Group: Migrant rescue ship low on supplies in Mediterranean

**MILAN** (AP)—Maltese armed forces on Tuesday evacuated for medical reasons one of 64 migrants aboard a German humanitarian rescue ship that has been at sea for six days as Europe haggles over where to provide safe port. The woman was suffering from dizziness, but officials from the German humanitarian group Sea-Eye said that an accurate diagnosis wasn't possible on board. "We have to expect such situations to increase if these people are not allowed to move quickly to a safe place," said Jan Ribbeck, operations manager aboard the group's rescue vessel Alan Kurdi. Sea-Eye said it has informed Malta, the nearest country with a port, that drinking water and food is running low for the rescued people, now including 11 women, a child and an infant. The European Union, meanwhile, said it had triggered talks with member states to identify a port and countries to take in the migrants, as the nearest countries, Malta and Italy, have refused to allow port access to any NGO rescue ship. Sea-Eye spokesman Dominik Reisinger said the "political question about the distribution of the rescued ... overshadows the human rights" of those on board.

### Putin outlines ambitious Arctic expansion program

**ST. PETERSBURG, Russia** (AP)—President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday put forward an ambitious program to secure Russia's foothold in the Arctic, including efforts to build new ports and other infrastructure facilities and expand an icebreaker fleet. Speaking at the Arctic forum in St. Petersburg attended by leaders of Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, Putin said that Russia plans to dramatically increase cargo shipments across the Arctic sea route. He said that the amount of cargo carried across the shipping lane is set to increase from 20 million metric tons last year to 80 million tons in 2025. "This is a realistic, well-calculated and concrete task," Putin said. "We need to make the Northern sea route safe and commercially feasible." He noted that Russia, the only nation with a nuclear icebreaker fleet, is moving to expand it. Russia currently has four nuclear icebreakers, and Putin said that three new such ships are currently under construction. By 2035, Russia stands to have a fleet of 13 heavy icebreakers, including nine nuclear-powered ones, he said.

## France softens stance ahead of May plea for new Brexit delay

**BRUSSELS** (AP)—Tough-guy France softened its stance Tuesday and showed willingness to accept yet another delay in the long-awaited Brexit, diminishing the chances that Britain would crash out of the European Union this week without any future plan.

But British Prime Minister Theresa May still has a rough day ahead of her as she heads to an emergency summit in Brussels on Wednesday to plead for a new Brexit extension—for the second time in three weeks. Such gatherings aren't getting any friendlier.

With nearly everyone fully resigned to Britain's departure from the European Union, two questions took center stage Tuesday: How—and when—to get the U.K. politely out the door.

EU countries, especially France, have become increasingly exasperated with the political division and uncertainty in Britain about a way forward.

The bloc's leaders have tried to help May over the past two years of negotiations, even after she missed her hand-picked Brexit departure date on March 29 because of a parliamentary revolt. After obtaining a delay until Friday, she will be asking for another postponement that lasts until June 30 at the special EU summit.

On a charm offensive with key leaders, May flew first to Berlin Tuesday to plead for good terms with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and then set off for Paris for an encounter with President Emmanuel Macron, seen as her counterpart with the toughest demands.

"France is really trying to play bad cop here," said Larissa Brunner, an analyst at European Policy Center, referring to French insistence that another extension to her deadline must come with strings attached and assurances from London.

However, an official in Macron's office said Tuesday that France was ready to accept a new delay.

While Macron still has a long list of conditions, it was a notable shift in France's tone compared to last week. The reason for the change was unclear, though concerns have been growing about how badly a hard Brexit would hit the French economy, too. France was also encouraged by May's outreach last week to Britain's political opposition to find a compromise, and Macron may have been swayed in part by a meeting with the Irish prime minister.

France, which has had a love-hate relationship with Britain for about 1,000 years, is now at the forefront to get the EU to take some decisive action.

# Environment

## A women-driven sustainability group gives Philadelphians

# new ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle

By GRACE DICKINSON
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

On a recent Wednesday evening, nine entrepreneurs—from glass blowers to composters to kombucha makers—gathered at the Resource Exchange in Kensington to address a crowd of mostly 20- and 30-something women sipping mixed drinks through biodegradable paper revolved around the circular economy, a system that aims to minimize waste through reduction, reuse, and recycling of materials.

"Glass is perfect," declared Rebecca Davies of Remark Glass. "It's reusable, it doesn't leach chemicals into food or the environment, it's recyclable … and it can store an entire bottle of wine. What more could you want?"

Davies passed around a small bowl, an example of her studio's handiwork—made by melting down recycled beer, wine, and liquor bottles, then reshaping the material into glassware, light fixtures, and other home decor.

Over the next hour or so, Davies and the other business owners chatted about ways to create a more sustainable local economy. During a Q&A session at the end, a half-dozen audience members' hands eagerly shot up.

Tiffany Threadgould, center, explains the Loop and TerraCycle program during a Women for a Sustainable Philadelphia event, "Sharing Our Resources: A Conversation About the Circular Economy," on March 20, 2019 at The Resource Exchange in Philadelphia, Pa. TNS

"Do you think Philadelphia will ever create a citywide municipality composting program?" asked one. "How is the current global sand shortage affecting glass supply?" inquired another.

The event and its panel were curated by Women for a Sustainable Philadelphia, a group founded in 2013 that connects sustainability professionals and green-minded consumers both in person and online. Though the group was started by women, its events and Facebook community are open to all genders and identities.

"We're just looking to join together people who are really passionate, energetic, and supportive in this space," said Catherine Kendig, 34, a cofounder of the group and an adviser at Tesla. "People meet here and often realize that they're trying to tackle similar issues but in entirely different fields, which sparks opportunities for collaboration and problem-solving."

Beyond environmental entrepreneurs, Women for a Sustainable Philadelphia is open to anyone who wants to lead a greener lifestyle. The handful of events held each year provides the group's industry professionals and sustainability-minded members to coalesce around the cause.

"I'd always talk nonstop about sustainability topics with my friends, and sometimes they'd tune me out—it's just not what they're thinking about all day," said Jen Singley, 27, who launched the group's event component in May. "Through this group, I've met so many people I wouldn't have met otherwise, people like me who walk by a trash can and can't help but stop to pull out the recyclables."

Leah Tanner, 22, a sample coordinator at Free People, went to the recent circular economy discussion to meet other people interested in leading zero-waste lifestyles. "But I ended up learning about so many resources in the area. I'm actually planning to sign up for Bennett Compost tonight," she said.

That kind of feedback is part of why the group started holding these functions. "The events are designed to be a platform for business leaders to introduce real, tangible resources to residents in the area," said Kendig.

Discussion topics have included clean water, stormwater management, and a dive into the details of Philadelphia's Zero Waste Initiative. Audience members usually leave with a variety of ideas they can put to use in their own lives, like installing a rain garden.

Besides composting and glass recycling, attendees of the circular economy gathering were introduced to concepts like Loop, an initiative from recycling company TerraCycle. The subscription home-delivery service partners with mainstream companies, like Häagen-Dazs, to replace single-use packaging with reusable products, such as double-walled steel pint containers.

Some of the environmental entrepreneurs presented customer reward programs. At Inspired Brews, customers can earn 25 cents for every empty kombucha bottle returned. The bottles are sanitized and reused.

The events generally draw from 20 to 60 participants, and the group's Facebook membership currently numbers about 450. Almost daily, members post invites to other networking events, articles about topics like recycling, and internship and professional opportunities in the industry.

"So many of the women that come here are natural movers and shakers in the sustainable-business world," said Kelly Offner, 29, who has attended four of the group's events. "There's a sense of excitement and camaraderie when you walk into the room, and you always find women asking really bold questions."

For Davies, the women-focused aspect of the group is particularly appealing.

"Women in business tend to be supportive and collaborative, and when those two attributes come together, we can really start the conversation of where we're going to bring the economy into the future," Davies said. "This is a group of problem-solvers who are invested in how we're going to grow the city in a positive direction."

Science Matters
How many oceans are there?
The seas flow freely into each other, but throughout history, their names have evolved for historical, geographical, cultural and scientific reasons.
"The Seven Seas" has had several meanings since ancient Greece and Rome
In modern times, has meant the four oceans, the Mediterranean, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico
Steven Businger photo
ONE: The Earth's global ocean
• A vast body of water covers 71 percent of the Earth, with great currents flowing worldwide
• The continents drift constantly from place to place, and over the ages, seas open, then disappear
• For many scientific purposes, all seas are thought of as one, for example in the study of the global climate
AFRICA
AMERICAS
AUSTRALIA
Earth has a single ocean
As it has a single atmosphere
FOUR: The great ocean basins
• Connected bodies of sea separated by clear, narrow passages have different characters – the cold Arctic, the stormy Atlantic, the island-strewn Pacific
• Over human history, those basins have developed different cultures as the early sea-faring people stayed in their home waters
Atlantic Ocean
Indian Ocean
Arctic Ocean
Pacific Ocean
The sea passages
FIVE: Adding the Southern Ocean
• Most nations and their scientists now consider the Southern Ocean around Antarctica as a distinct sea
• Unlike any other ocean, the Southern Ocean has a prevailing current that carries its waters in a circle
Southern Ocean
ANTARCTICA
Latitude 60 degrees South
Source: U.S.National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

# Loughlin, husband, others hit with money laundering charge

## SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

### Man wins over $110K, breaks single-day record on 'Jeopardy!'

**CULVER CITY, Calif.** (AP)—A 34-year-old professional sports gambler from Las Vegas won more than $110,000 on "Jeopardy!" on Tuesday, breaking the record for single-day cash winnings. The show said in a press release that James Holzhauer won the episode with a total of $110,914. The previous record of $77,000 was set by Roger Craig in 2010. Tuesday's win was the fourth consecutive victory for Holzhauer, whose winnings total more than $244,000. He will face two new challengers Wednesday. "Jeopardy!" host Alex Trebek revealed in March that he was diagnosed with advanced pancreatic cancer but said he intends to fight the disease and keep on working. The episode that aired Tuesday was taped Feb. 11.

### Taylor Swift donates $113K to Tennessee LGBTQ advocacy group

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (AP)—Music superstar Taylor Swift says the efforts of a Tennessee LGBTQ advocacy group to fight a handful of contentious bills moving inside the state's Republican-controlled General Assembly inspired her to make a sizeable donation. According to the Tennessee Equality Project, Swift donated $113,000 to the organization on Monday. The group posted a handwritten letter from Swift, who cited a recent petition of Tennessee faith leaders who oppose a series of bills they say target LGBTQ individuals. Swift praised the religious leaders for giving all people a place to worship and for "standing up against the 'Slate of Hate' in our state legislature." The bills include allowing adoption agencies to discriminate against same-sex couples and preventing government agencies from considering a business's nondiscrimination policies when selecting a contract.

### Sara Gilbert exits 'The Talk,' cites work-life balance

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Sara Gilbert is leaving the daytime talk show she helped launch. Gilbert announced Tuesday on CBS' "The Talk" that she's decided to exit as a co-host because of her packed work and personal schedule. Gilbert, who produces and stars on ABC's "The Conners," said her life was "slightly out of balance." She wasn't spending enough time with her three children, she said, lamenting she had yet to make her 4-year-old's baby book. There are also other producing and acting opportunities demanding her attention, Gilbert said. She will finish out the current and ninth season of "The Talk" and plans to return as a guest co-host. Gilbert's replacement wasn't announced. Another co-host, Julie Chen, exited last fall following sexual misconduct allegations against her husband, former CBS chief executive Leslie Moonves.

**BOSTON** (AP)—Federal prosecutors added money laundering to the list of accusations against actress Lori Loughlin, her fashion designer husband, Mossimo Giannulli, and 14 other prominent parents Tuesday in the college admissions bribery case, increasing the pressure on them to plead guilty as other parents have agreed to do.

Loughlin, who starred in the sitcom "Full House," and Giannulli are among 33 wealthy parents accused of participating in a scheme that involved rigging college entrance exams and bribing coaches at top universities. The new charges come a day after "Desperate Housewives" actress Felicity Huffman, 12 other parents and a coach agreed to plead guilty.

The parents were arrested last month on a single charge of conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud. An indictment brought Tuesday adds a charge of money laundering conspiracy against the couple and the 14 other parents.

Other parents indicted on the new charge Tuesday include Michelle Janavs, whose family developed the microwave snack line Hot Pockets before selling their company, and William McGlashan, who co-founded an investment fund with U2′s Bono in 2017.

McGlashan's attorney John Hueston said Tuesday the case against him "is deeply flawed."

"We look forward to presenting his side of the story," Hueston said.

Messages seeking comment were left with representatives for Loughlin, Giannulli and Janavs.

Attorneys for the parents charged in the indictment Tuesday accused prosecutors of "judge shopping" to get their case in front of a tough jurist. In a letter to the chief judge of Boston's federal court, the lawyers said the parents shouldn't be added to an indictment that has already been assigned to Judge Nathaniel Gorton.

AP

In this April 3, 2019 file photo, actress Lori Loughlin, front, and husband, clothing designer Mossimo Giannulli, left, depart federal court in Boston after facing charges in a nationwide college admissions bribery scandal.

U.S. Attorney Andrew Lelling shot back, calling the letter "inappropriate" and a "Hail Mary by people who know better."

"What counsel fail to say—but of course mean—is that they want a different judge because they perceive Judge Gorton as imposing longer sentences in criminal cases than other judges in the district; if this matter had been drawn to a judge viewed as more favorable to the defense, counsel would not have sent the letter," Lelling wrote in response.

## *Plea deal puts Felicity Huffman's career at pivotal point*

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Felicity Huffman is an Emmy-winning actress and has several buzzy upcoming projects, but her career faces a pivotal moment because of her real-life role in the college admissions bribery scandal.

Huffman may be sent to prison after agreeing Monday to plead guilty to one count of conspiracy and fraud for paying a consultant $15,000 disguised as a charitable donation to boost her daughter's SAT score. Prosecutors are seeking four to 10 months of confinement, and experts differ on whether the plea, and Huffman's subsequent apology taking full responsibility for her actions , will leave her with an acting career.

"I think she did the right thing in the tone of how she came clean, accepted guilt and taken the plea deal," said Laura Ries, co-founder at the advertising firm Ries & Ries.

"I think people want to give others a second chance, especially if you ask for forgiveness and show repentance that you're moving forward. Her next role might not come in two weeks or two months, but maybe in a year or two."

"I think if money was exchanged, she should do jail time," said Jodi Gomes, director of "One Child Left Behind: The Untold Atlanta Cheating Scandal," an upcoming documentary focusing on a group of educators convicted of boosting test scores to try to advance students. "In doing jail time, that would kill her career."

No matter what Huffman's fate is, she won't immediately disappear from viewers' screens.

She will play a prosecutor in the Ava DuVernay-directed "When They See Us," a limited series on the Central Park Five case that will be released May 31.

# Mom 'reclaims' the things she gave to her daughters

DEAR ABBY: My mother moved in with my sister in California around 1993. After 20 years, I asked her what she wanted to do with her storage unit, which was still in Arizona. Long story short, she said: "Clear it out. I don't even know what's in there. Take whatever you want, keep the pictures and give the rest to Goodwill." My sisters have the same recollection. Over the next three or four years, my sisters and I proceeded to do so.

Mom has moved in with me now, at 80 years old, and says she may be moving out into her own place in the future. The items I use in my household are starting to disappear. She says she's reclaiming them. I told her they are things I use and that she gave them to us years ago. Who is correct? Should I keep the items as mine? Or should my mother be able to take them back after specifically giving them up, since they have been integrated into our households?

CLEARED OUT IN THE WEST

**DEAR CLEARED OUT: Your mother may be having some memory glitches, or may regret giving up her independence and the items that symbolize it. Do not be defensive. Tell her that when she has a place of her own "in the future," you will gladly return any items she needs. Do not let this degenerate into an argument. She has been living with your sister—and now you—over the last 26 years for a reason. Some seniors move in with their children because they are medically or financially unable to manage on their own.**

**DEAR ABBY**: My husband likes to wear my underwear, and it grosses me out. He knows I don't approve and promises he won't do it again, but he does. I can't even stand to look at him. What should I do?

DISTURBED IN TEXAS

**DEAR DISTURBED: The first thing to do would be to understand that not every woman who is married to a cross-dresser feels as strongly as you do about it. Do some research about cross-dressing—its causes and why some men feel the compulsion to do it. If after that you are still grossed out and unable to understand why your husband needs to do this, it may be time to schedule some marriage counseling to see if your marriage can be saved.**

DEAR ABBY: It won't be long before Easter is here. Please remind your readers to NEVER give live animals as holiday gifts. There are adorable plush toy animals available that can be held tightly and snuggled safely—for all concerned.

A MOM IN EVANSTON, ILL.

## DEAR ABBY

**By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

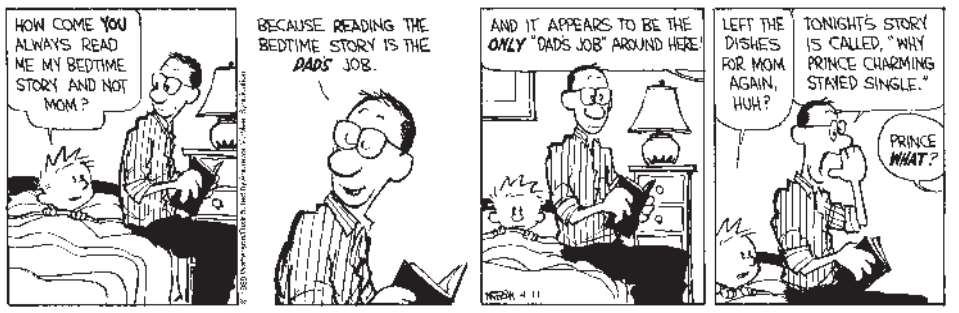
**DEAR MOM: Thanks for the timely reminder to parents and grandparents. Children should not be gifted with pets until they are old enough—and responsible enough—to care for them. Adorable chicks and baby bunnies have been squeezed or neglected to death because the children had no concept of how they should be treated. And even when the children ARE old enough, the parents should first agree that the little creature is welcome.**

*Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HOW COME YOU ALWAYS READ ME MY BEDTIME STORY AND NOT MOM?
BECAUSE READING THE BEDTIME STORY IS THE DADS JOB.
AND IT APPEARS TO BE THE ONLY "DADS JOB" AROUND HERE!
LEFT THE DISHES FOR MOM AGAIN, HUH?
TONIGHT'S STORY IS CALLED, "WHY PRINCE CHARMING STAYED SINGLE."
PRINCE WHAT?

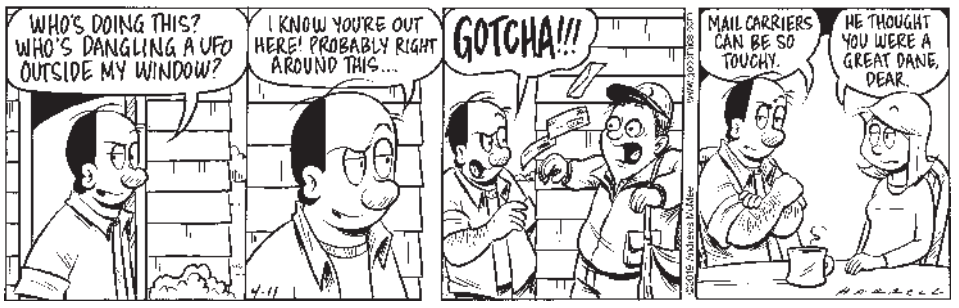
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

HERE'S WHEN MOM WAS ON HER KNITTING BINGE
SHE KNITTED SWEATERS FOR EVERYONE IN THE FAMILY
AND THEN FOR THE CHICKENS
THE RHINE-STONES ARE A BIT MUCH

## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHO'S DOING THIS? WHO'S DANGLING A UFO OUTSIDE MY WINDOW?
I KNOW YOU'RE OUT HERE! PROBABLY RIGHT AROUND THIS...
GOTCHA!!!
MAIL CARRIERS CAN BE SO TOUCHY.
HE THOUGHT YOU WERE A GREAT DANE, DEAR.

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

**ACROSS**

1 Red Planet
5 Dandy guy
8 Espy
12 Part of Q.E.D.
13 Lennon's lady
14 Frau's mate
15 Mater lead-in
16 Old Oldsmobile
17 Notion
18 Head honcho
20 Desolate
22 Presidential nickname
23 Dol. fractions
24 "Toodle-oo!"
27 Shun liquor
32 Actress Thurman
33 Hostel
34 Pie — mode
35 Gifted
38 "Roots" author Haley
39 Altar affirmative
40 Sushi fish
42 Demand
45 Zealous
49 Gestation location
50 Gun the engine
52 Black-and-white cookie
53 Spoken
54 "As I see it," to a texter
55 Cold War initials
56 Prime-time hour
57 Owned by us
58 — good example

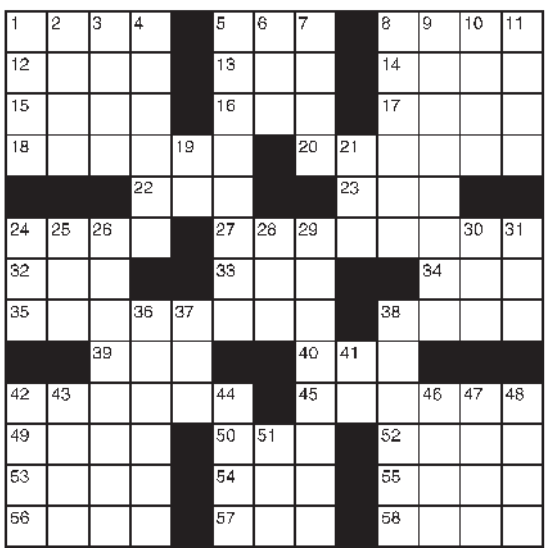
**DOWN**

1 Potatoes partner
2 Folk-singer Guthrie
3 Wheelchair access
4 Sports venues
5 "Never mind!"
6 Single
7 Crawl space?
8 Japanese faith
9 Statue base
10 Baseball's Hershiser
11 Tea carrier
19 Letters of approval?
21 Calendar abbr.
24 Boy king
25 Docs' org.
26 Amulet
28 Away from WSW
29 Try
30 Pub order
31 Remiss
36 Safe to consume
37 Refusals
38 Novelist Huxley
41 Hectic hosp. area
42 Victor's cry
43 Sushi wrapper
44 Half a sextet
46 Gaelic
47 Tree home
48 Afghanistan's — Bora region
51 Outback bird

**Solution time: 24 mins.**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | A | T | S | | O | H | O | | O | A | S | T |
| H | C | O | I | | R | U | B | | K | N | E | E |
| A | N | T | I | H | E | R | O | | A | T | A | T |
| P | E | S | T | O | | | E | M | P | I | R | E |
| | | | C | E | N | T | | A | I | D | | |
| S | H | A | H | | Y | A | R | N | | C | R | G |
| P | J | N | | D | E | T | O | X | | T | A | I |
| Y | E | T | | I | T | A | L | | S | E | W | N |
| | | I | D | A | | R | F | S | T | | | |
| A | B | I | A | Z | F | | | C | A | R | O | N |
| S | C | I | I | | A | N | T | I | G | C | N | F |
| T | J | E | S | | V | I | I | | E | M | I | T |
| I | T | S | Y | | E | P | A | | D | C | T | S |

Yesterday's answer 4-11



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Morgan Lily, 19; Joss Stone, 32; Kelli Garner, 35; Tricia Helfer, 45.

**Happy Birthday:** Your desire for change will increase. A strategic plan coupled with patience will serve you well when the time is right to move in a new direction. Plan your actions based on your ultimate goal, and take advantage of an opportunity that allows you to incorporate more of what you want to be doing in your everyday routine. Your numbers are 7, 18, 21, 26, 32, 37, 48.

**ARIES** *(March 21-April 19):* Make a change for the right reason. Don't let your emotions cloud your vision. Work with what's being offered. You will be happy and surprised by the way your day unfolds. Moderation will help you avoid making a mistake. ✪✪

**TAURUS** *(April 20-May 20):* An unpredictable pattern may excite you, but don't go overboard. Have a plan in place to accommodate any pitfalls that occur. It's better to be safe than sorry. Follow your heart only if you are positive it won't be broken. ✪✪✪✪

**GEMINI** *(May 21-June 20):* Your impatience and desire to participate will cost you if you are too eager to help someone who is taking advantage of you. Consider how best to deal with situations that are overwhelming, excessive or could end up costing you. ✪✪✪

**CANCER** *(June 21-July 22):* Don't be shy. Say what's on your mind and do what's right. Now is not the time to sit back and let someone else take over. Do whatever it takes to make your life and the world around you better. ✪✪✪

**LEO** *(July 23-Aug. 22):* How you deal with others will determine the changes that take place around you. Take care of your responsibilities before you complain or criticize. It's important to show consistency and discipline if you want to be a leader. ✪✪✪

**VIRGO** *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Participate in events that are conducive to mingling with interesting people. Learn from the conversations you have with experts, and share what you learn with people you want to work alongside. Much can be accomplished if you collaborate. ✪✪✪✪

**LIBRA** *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Keep conversations light and positive. If you get into discussions about money, religion or politics, it will lead to regret. Be open-minded and willing to accept others for who they are and what they believe. Physical exercise will help relieve stress. ✪✪

**SCORPIO** *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Don't worry about what you cannot change. Let go of the past and head into the future with optimism, ideas and good intentions. You have far more to gain moving forward than you do looking back or living in the past. ✪✪✪✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Make physical activity a priority and keeping busy your goal. Too much idle time or hanging out with people who are indulgent will not end well. Money matters should be handled with care. A problem with a sibling or partner is looming. ✪✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Make a positive change at home or to the way you do your job. Getting along well with others will lead to the support and help needed to reach your goals. Take responsibility for your actions; rewards will follow. ✪✪✪

**AQUARIUS** *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Someone from your past will surprise you. Attending a reunion or reconnecting on social media with an old friend will bring back memories and prompt you to revisit a goal you have yet to accomplish. An opportunity is heading your way. ✪✪✪

**PISCES** *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Open your door to friends and relatives. Listen to what others have to say to gain valuable information that will help you adjust to the changes that are going on around you. Romance will enrich your personal life. ✪✪✪✪✪

**Birthday Baby:** You are talented, adaptable and conscientious. You are helpful and generous.

*To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.*

## SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 8 | | 9 | | | 6 | | |
| | 9 | | | 4 | 1 | | 5 | 3 |
| 4 | | | | | | | | |
| | 1 | | | | | | | 9 |
| | 6 | | | 5 | | | 7 | |
| 2 | | | | | | | 4 | |
| | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 3 | 5 | | 8 | 7 | | | 6 | |
| | | 2 | | | 6 | | 9 | |

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 9 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 1 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 8 |
| 8 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 7 |
| 6 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 1 |
| 3 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 2 |
| 4 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 3 |
| 9 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 5 |

Difficulty Level ★★★

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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

PRADA — Solution: 6 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | P | I | H | S | N | A | M | S | T | F | A | R | C | F |
| W | U | Y | S | T | E | L | L | A | W | A | I | C | N | R |
| O | E | M | D | C | E | L | I | T | E | S | O | O | E | A |
| D | T | D | M | N | N | A | E | L | C | H | S | W | M | G |
| A | U | R | G | E | A | J | A | G | (L) | I | P | G | O | R |
| H | H | A | B | E | R | C | E | (U) | A | O | O | I | W | A |
| S | C | W | F | A | S | I | (N) | W | C | N | R | R | S | N |
| N | A | R | L | P | C | (A) | L | O | E | A | T | L | E | C |
| A | R | O | U | O | R | K | N | L | M | L | E | S | H | E |
| I | A | F | O | O | N | O | P | D | U | B | R | N | C | S |
| L | P | T | S | L | U | I | S | A | A | S | A | Y | T | E |
| A | T | S | U | B | D | U | O | L | C | L | I | L | A | T |
| T | A | A | P | P | A | R | E | L | I | K | E | O | W | O |
| I | M | P | O | R | T | E | D | M | I | B | S | N | N | T |
| C | F | O | O | T | W | E | A | R | U | N | W | A | Y | S |

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Apparel, Backpacks, Belts, Candy, Clean, Cloudbust, Cowgirls, Craftsmanship, Elegant, Elite, Fashion, Fluo, Footwear, Forward, Fragrances, Illusions, Imported, Italian, Jewelry, Label, Loop, Luisa, Luna, Mario, Milan, Nylon, Parachute, Past, Pocono, Rossa, Runways, Sandal, Shadows, Sport, Summer, Totes, Upscale, Wallets, Watches, Wedge, Women

**Yesterday's Answer: Cork**

The NEW **Volume 56** can be purchased online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

# CLASSIFIED ADS

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude.
Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified,
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### (2) HOST COORDINATOR

Minimum of three (3) months' work experience, preferably in hospitality. High School or College degree is required. Assist customers with seating arrangements, provide exceptional customer service and self-starter. Previous cashiering experience required. Fluent in English and able to communicate with diverse cultures. Fluent in Korean, Chinese, Russian, or Japanese is preferred. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

### (1) FRONT DESK CLERK

Minimum of one (1) year work experience, preferably in hospitality. Previous cashiering experience required. High School or College degree is required. Must be able to write, read, and speak fluently in Chinese and English. Must be able to work evenings, graveyard shifts, weekends, and holidays.

---

**Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Monday, April 15th 2019.**
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk
by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.
Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

WHATZIT Solution: Long time no see

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*Saipan Tribune* also offers a complete 5-day run of liner ads, for as low as $15 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

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**Classified Ads**

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

### CANCELLATION

**Classified Ads**

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### CHECK YOUR ADS

*Saipan Tribune* will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

### ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

**AEON ABDE**

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Find today's solution in classified section

# Cowboys' Lawrence signs $105M deal; Prescott next?

AP
Dallas Cowboys defensive end Demarcus Lawrence, center, laughs during a press conference at The Star in Frisco, Texas, Tuesday, April 9, 2019.

**DALLAS** (AP)—DeMarcus Lawrence may not be the highest-paid Dallas Cowboys player in history for long. Doesn't mean the club's best defensive end can't enjoy the distinction while it lasts.

The 26-year-old Lawrence signed a five-year, $105 million contract, with $65 million guaranteed, on Tuesday. He then was asked repeatedly to try to reflect on what it means to have a $21 million-per-year average that tops retired quarterback Tony Romo, pass rushing predecessor and franchise sacks leader DeMarcus Ware and receiver Dez Bryant before him.

"I have so many emotions going on right now," Lawrence said while his parents, young son and fiancee watched in the room where coach Jason Garrett holds his daily news conferences during the season.

"It's hard for me to take it in. Going through the back surgeries and stuff, I thought my career was over. Before I even made a couple of sacks, I thought I would never see this day."

Shoulder surgery is next, scheduled for Wednesday and part of the reason a deal got done long before a July 15 deadline that was in place after the Cowboys put the franchise tag on Lawrence for the second straight year.

Getting the procedure done now raises the question of whether the two-time Pro Bowler will be ready for the regular season—he declared that he would be—and waiting to do it until after he had a new contract gave Lawrence some leverage.

Last year, Lawrence signed the $17.1 million franchise tag right away. This year, he wasn't going to grab $20.5 million guaranteed anytime soon, determined to get the long-term deal he felt he deserved. By not signing, Lawrence could have skipped mandatory minicamp without getting fined.

"We were getting to a point where we needed to make it happen," executive vice president of personnel Stephen Jones said of the surgery, joined by Garrett at the news conference while owner Jerry Jones made an opening speech over the phone from NFL labor meetings.

"I think DeMarcus was aware of that too. I mean, he loves to play the game. Certainly, having that looming out there was probably important for both of us to really push and make the push we did there to get it done."

The Cowboys have several young stars with paydays coming, headlined by quarterback Dak Prescott. Stephen Jones wasn't shy in suggesting that Prescott is likely to replace Lawrence whenever he signs.

Prescott is in the final year of a rookie deal that pays the fourth-round pick $2 million. That's more than three times Prescott's salary from the 2016 NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year's second Pro Bowl season in 2018.

"When you're getting ready to do a quarterback who is a franchise quarterback and already has put some serious skins on the wall like Dak has, no, he's probably not going to be there long," Stephen Jones said. "But he can always say he held the mantle, albeit it might be a short time."

Three years into his career, Lawrence wasn't thinking about a big second contract. He had nine career sacks at that point, eight of them in his second season. The former Boise State player didn't have a sack as a rookie in 2014, and just one two years later as he battled those back issues, along with other ailments.

Lawrence also had to serve a four-game suspension for violating the ban on performance-enhancers to start the 2016 season. Finally healthy and free of that cloud, Lawrence tied for second in the NFL with 14½ sacks in 2017 and had another 10½ last season.

"The adversity he had early in his career and how he came back from that, a number of different times," Garrett said. "One of the great leaders on our defense ... who does things the right way and certainly a cornerstone player who we want to be here for a long, long time."

Jerry Jones recalled the criticism he took when the Cowboys traded up 13 spots to the second pick of the second round of the 2014 draft "to take a player that we thought was the player left on the board that had the juice to get to the passer."

"A lot of people thought we paid too much to get him," said Jones, who gave up his third-round pick that year. "Here we stand with a guy that's about to be the highest-paid player in the history of the Dallas Cowboys. He's earned it."

Lawrence will enjoy the highest-paid distinction while he can.

## Texas Tech has foundation for future after finals stint

**MINNEAPOLIS** (AP) — Brandone Francis plopped down in front of the Texas Tech locker room stalls where Matt Mooney and Tariq Owens were seated, their eyes red and wet as they clasped hands in consolation and solidarity while Virginia was celebrating on the court.

Three of the team's four seniors were still trying to process the fresh agony of losing in overtime of the national championship game with the life-changing and program-lifting season the Red Raiders (31-7) had just finished. In this rawest of moments they experienced, the sadness was too strong to push aside .

"It's so hard to come up short, man," Mooney said in the softest of his voices, staring straight down at the floor after Texas Tech lost 85-77 in Minneapolis.

Mooney, the sharp-shooting guard with the close-shorn haircut who was the star of the win over Michigan State in the semifinals on Saturday, landed in Lubbock with coach Chris Beard for his final year of college.

The two-time transfer, who started at Air Force and then switched to South Dakota, found a place to belong, however briefly, with Beard and his like-minded collection of underdogs and afterthoughts.

Naturally, Mooney was taking the loss as hard as anyone as Monday night crept toward Tuesday morning deep inside U.S. Bank Stadium.

"At the end of the day, we're brothers," he said. "We're family. We're always going to be family."

Beard, the Associated Press Coach of the Year award winner , worked his way through junior colleges, a semipro league, Division III, Division II and a mid-major before finally arriving at a power conference program with the Red Raiders three years ago.

Last season, he took them further than ever, where predecessors Gerald Myers, James Dickey, Bobby Knight, Pat Knight and Tubby Smith never went, to the school's first Elite Eight appearance. Though they went 27-10 and ultimately fell to eventual champion Villanova, the Red Raiders lost five of their top six scorers.

Jarrett Culver, a projected top 10 NBA draft pick, made major strides in his sophomore year. Mooney and Owens made major impacts and immediately meshed with their teammates, never an easy task for graduate transfers. Francis, who started his career at Florida, was a steely spark off the bench. Davide Moretti, a sophomore from Italy, was the team's second-leading scorer. Norense Odiase, the other senior in the rotation, helped hold down the middle.

Whatever the Red Raiders might have been missing on offense, they made up for with the defensive tenacity around which Beard has built this hard-nosed team in the styles of the Knights he once coached under.

By one metric, data expert Ken Pomeroy's points-per-100-possessions ranking, Texas Tech was not only the most efficient defensive team in the nation, but the best since that statistic was invented 17 years ago.

The Red Raiders, along with co-Big 12 champion Kansas State, ended a 14-season run by Kansas atop the conference.

Francis frustratingly declared "nobody remembers second place," but in the case of this Texas Tech team, that's not true, and not just for Red Raiders fans. Any regular follower of the NCAA Tournament will have no trouble recalling this run.

"These guys will go on to be great pros and fathers and husbands," Beard said. "Just never been more proud of a group."

Though Culver said he had not decided yet whether to turn pro, he's a good bet to be lottery bound, so Beard and his staff will have a lot to replace. The foundation has been built, though, and reaching the national title game will never hurt recruiting.

### Murray, Bosa among 23 prospects to attend draft

Kyler Murray and Nick Bosa are among the 23 prospects who plan to attend the NFL draft this month in Nashville.

Murray, the Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback from Oklahoma, could be selected No. 1 overall by the Arizona Cardinals. Bosa, a defensive end from Ohio State, also is expected to be a top-three pick.

Other players scheduled to attend include Kentucky edge rusher Josh Allen, Michigan linebacker Devin Bush, LSU linebacker Devin White, LSU cornerback Greedy Williams and Alabama defensive lineman Quinnen Williams.

The draft begins with the first round on April 25. The second and third rounds are April 26, and the event concludes with rounds 4-7 on April 27.

# DeGrom's streaks end as Twins top Mets

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Jacob deGrom's record-tying streak of quality starts ended at 26 when he allowed two home runs to Mitch Garver and one to Eddie Rosario in a 14-8 drubbing by the Minnesota Twins on Tuesday night, the worst outing in two years for the New York Mets ace.

Minnesota had six homers, including a pair by Jonathan Schoop. The Mets hit four of their own, two by rookie Pete Alonso, as the teams combined for the most home runs in a game at Citi Field, which opened a decade ago.

DeGrom gave up three homers and was lifted for a pinch hitter in the fourth inning after allowing six runs and eight hits. He sat grimly on the bench, head bowed, hands clenched together.

The right-hander struck out a career-high 14 during seven shutout innings against Miami last Wednesday, when he matched Bob Gibson's mark for consecutive starts of six or more innings with three earned runs or fewer allowed, set from 1967-68.

New York held back deGrom's start for 25 minutes, not wanting a brief April shower to fall on the reigning NL Cy Young Award winner. Home runs then rained from the Twins, who entered with seven in their first nine games.

AP

New York Mets Michael Conforto (30) is safe sliding into second on a double as Minnesota Twins shortstop Jorge Polanco (11) misses the throw during the first inning of an interleague baseball game, Tuesday, April 9, 2019, in New York. Second base umpire Tim Timmons watches the play.

### Blue Jays 7, Red Sox 5

In Boston, Chris Sale let a Toronto runner steal home, Mookie Betts fanned with two on for the final out and the champion Boston Red Sox stumbled again, losing to the Blue Jays 7-5 Tuesday in their home opener.

After receiving their World Series rings during a ceremony that included the Super Bowl champ New England Patriots, the Red Sox fell to 3-9. A return to Fenway Park failed to shake the doldrums that plagued Boston during a season-opening trip to Seattle, Oakland and Arizona.

### Nationals 10, Phillies 6, 10 innings

In Philadelphia, Juan Soto hit a three-run homer in the 10th inning, and Washington rallied for the win.

Philadelphia's Bryce Harper crushed a three-run homer off former teammate Stephen Strasburg, but Victor Robles tied it at 6 on a solo shot off Edubray Ramos with two outs and two strikes in the ninth.

Ramos hadn't pitched in six days and has one career save but Phillies manager Gabe Kapler brought him in to protect a one-run lead.

### Cardinals 4, Dodgers 0

In St. Louis, Yadier Molina drove in three runs, Paul Goldschmidt homered and the Cardinals beat the Dodgers despite an embarrassing play by Marcell Ozuna.

St. Louis already had a 4-0 lead when Kiké Hernández led off the eighth with a drive to left. Ozuna went back and climbed up the wall, but he misjudged the ball and tumbled onto the warning track as he tried to make the play. Hernandez's drive bounced over for a ground-rule double, but Mike Mayers and Andrew Miller managed to escape the threat.

### Astros 6, Yankees 3

In Houston, José Altuve hit his 100th homer and George Springer's two-run double in the eighth inning helped the Astros to their third straight comeback win.

Houston has won five in a row overall to improve to 7-5.

The Astros trailed by one when Alex Bregman doubled off Jonathan Holder with two out in the seventh inning and scored on a double by Michael Brantley that tied it at 3.

### Indians 8, Tigers 2

In Detroit, Corey Kluber earned his first win of the season in his third start, powered by four Cleveland home runs.

The Indians won their fifth straight game. Detroit had won five in a row.

Kluber (1-2) allowed one earned run over six innings. A two-time Cy Young Award winner who went 20-7 last season, he struck out eight.

### Reds 14, Marlins 0

In Cincinnati, Matt Kemp started Cincinnati's spree of three consecutive homers, and the Reds stopped their eight-game losing streak after their manager and an outfielder were suspended.

The Reds were missing outfielder Yasiel Puig and manager David Bell, suspended for their part in a fracas in Pittsburgh on Sunday.

### Athletics 13, Orioles 2

In Baltimore, Jurickson Profar got four hits and drove in a career-high five runs, helping Oakland stop a four-game slide.

Slumping Orioles slugger Chris Davis didn't play, a day after he set the major league record for the longest hitless streak by a position player at 0 for 49.

### Rays 10, White Sox 5

In Chicago, Austin Meadows homered and set a career high with four hits, powering Tampa Bay to the win.

The Rays pounded Ervin Santana (0-1) and improved to 9-3, their best start in nine years. They also extended a club record by clinching their fourth straight series victory to start a season.

### Braves 7, Rockies 1

In Denver, Dansby Swanson and Ronald Acuña Jr. homered, leading Max Fried and the Atlanta Braves past the Colorado Rockies.

Fried took a no-hitter into the sixth inning against the Chicago Cubs on Thursday and carried that momentum into Denver. The left-hander allowed an unearned run and five hits in six innings.

### Mariners 6, Royals 3

In Kansas City, Dee Gordon got three hits and drove in two runs as the high-scoring Seattle Mariners extended baseball's best record with a 6-3 victory over the Royals.

The Mariners improved to 11-2 and have scored at least five runs in 12 of those games. The Royals lost their eighth in a row.

Whit Merrifield extended his hitting streak to 30 games, tying a Royals record set by George Brett in 1980.

## $1.7M missed bonuses worth it if USWNT wins World Cup

**LOS ANGELES**—You can call it experimenting, or tinkering, or testing. But United States women's national team forward Christen Press prefers a broader term: preparing.

"We have been preparing for the World Cup since the moment that we finished the Olympics in 2016," Press said. "We have been trying new things out, which just basically means preparing—it's trying different shapes, different personnel, all of that."

Potato, potahto—whatever it's called, coach Jill Ellis has been doing a lot of it with the USWNT, and it's made for some surprising and, at times, head-scratching lineups. Ellis has shoehorned players in new positions, tried new formations and thrown rookies off the deep end to sink or swim. Just when it seems like Ellis has moved on from experimenting, she finds a new and equally unpredictable wrinkle to try.

Against Belgium at Banc of California Stadium on Sunday, Ellis shocked even the most attuned USWNT followers by starting defender Ali Krieger, who hadn't played with the national team in almost two years to the day. On top of that, Ellis asked the team's only true defensive midfielder, Julie Ertz, to reprise a role as a center back, while usual fullback Crystal Dunn went up into the central midfield.

Dunn admits switching on and off from being a defender isn't always easy. It can take a beat or two to switch her brain back to fullback mode. But that challenge, brought on by constant tinkering, makes her better prepared for how crazy a World Cup can potentially get.

"I know if there is an injury or there is a rotation, I need to be at my best and be able to connect to whoever I'm playing with in that moment," Dunn said. "I always try to make it my business in training to feel connected with the other 23-plus players and be ready if I might need to play with someone new."

In other words, it's okay to feel uncomfortable during experiments because the World Cup will feel uncomfortable.

"Everything has a purpose," Ellis said. "It's about looking at all the pieces and how they fit together."

The problem, however, is that sometimes when the pieces don't fit together, Ellis and the coaching staff still try anyway, determined to get the results they want from an experiment.

Mallory Pugh, for instance, featured in last month's She-Believes Cup in the central midfield—a position she has never played – against the top teams in the world. Predictably, it didn't go very well from the start.

It has to be frustrating for the players then when such experiments lead to dropped results, which has resulted in $1.7 million in missed performance bonuses for the team over the past two years. More than ever, the players need to win to collect compensation promised to them in their collective bargaining agreement, and tinkering can make it tough to win.

It wasn't just Ellis's experimentation that led the players to raise their concerns to U.S. Soccer but an overall worry about the direction of the team and doubts that the experiments were designed to advance it.

But all will be forgotten if the USWNT can win another World Cup this summer.

The players may be losing out on performance bonuses, and they make not look as cohesive as they could, but there are still two months until the World Cup—two months for Ellis to show her experiments will lead to better decisions. And if Ellis gets her calculations right, the USWNT could be hoisting the World Cup again this summer.

# Magic abruptly resigns as Lakers president

AP
In this Feb. 19, 2017, file photo, former NBA player Magic Johnson reacts as he talks with Eastern Conference's LeBron James of the Cleveland Cavaliers during the first half of the NBA All-Star basketball game in New Orleans.

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Magic Johnson abruptly quit as the Los Angeles Lakers' president of basketball operations Tuesday night, citing his desire to return to the simpler life he enjoyed as a wealthy businessman and beloved former player before taking charge of this tempestuous franchise just over two years ago.

Johnson didn't tell owner Jeanie Buss or general manager Rob Pelinka about his shocking decision before he announced it in front of reporters about 90 minutes before the final game of the Lakers' sixth consecutive losing season. Los Angeles was 37-44 heading into its game against Portland, missing the playoffs yet again despite the offseason addition of LeBron James.

"I want to go back to having fun," Johnson said before fighting off tears. "I want to go back to being who I was before taking on this job. We're halfway there with LeBron coming (last summer). I think this summer, with that other star coming in, whoever is going to bring him in, I think this team is really going to be in position to contend for a championship with the growth of the young players."

Johnson didn't directly tie his decision to the future of Luke Walton, but the third-year coach was widely expected to be fired by Johnson. Without using names, Johnson repeatedly mentioned Buss' affinity for Walton, who was in place before Johnson got the job in February 2017, and Johnson's desire not to cause upheaval between the owner and her chosen coach.

"(On Wednesday) I would have to affect somebody's livelihood and their life," Johnson said. "And I thought about it and I said, 'That's not fun for me. That's not who I am.' And then I don't want to put her in the middle of us, even though she said, 'Hey, you can do what you want to do.' I know she has great love for him and great love for me."

Johnson and Buss had a three-hour meeting Monday about the direction of the 16-time NBA champion Lakers, who haven't made the postseason since 2013. Magic claimed he didn't finalize his decision until Tuesday morning.

"Somebody is going to have to tell my boss, because I know she's going to be sick," Johnson said. "But I knew I couldn't face her face-to-face and tell her."

Buss didn't attend the Lakers' season finale, although Johnson waited by the executive parking area at Staples Center in hopes of seeing her. Buss tweeted her reaction at halftime.

"Earvin, I loved working side by side with you," Buss wrote. "You've brought us a long way. We will continue the journey. We love you."

Clearly blindsided by Johnson's announcement, the Lakers also issued a team statement at halftime.

"There is no greater Los Angeles Laker than Earvin Johnson," it said. "We are deeply grateful to Magic for all that he has done for our franchise as a player, an ambassador and an executive. We thank him for his work these past two years as our President of Basketball Operations and wish him, (wife) Cookie, (children) Andre, EJ and Elisa all the best with their next steps. He will always be not only a Lakers icon, but our family. As we begin the process of moving forward, we will work in a measured and methodical fashion to make the right moves for the future of our organization."

Johnson's desire for his old life wasn't the only reason for his departure. He also said he is tired of being investigated or fined by the NBA for tampering when he comments on basketball on Twitter or even speaks to another organization's player.

Johnson, a longtime broadcaster and respected basketball figure before moving into the front office, has been investigated four times for tampering after everything from a joking comment about Paul George on Jimmy Kimmel's talk show to his response to an email sent to him by Philadelphia's Ben Simmons.

"I thought about Dwyane Wade retiring (Wednesday), and I can't even tweet that out or be there," Johnson said. "Serena Williams called me a week ago and said, 'Will you mentor me and be on my advisory board?' And I said, 'Yeah, I'm going to do that.' So when Ben Simmons called and we went through the proper channels and they made me look like the bad guy out of that situation, but I didn't do anything wrong ... I was thinking about all those times, all those guys who want me to mentor them or be a part of their lives, and I can't even do that. I had more fun on the other side."

Johnson, who will turn 60 in August, has many thriving business interests along with ownership stakes in the Los Angeles Dodgers and Los Angeles FC.

## *Wade, Nowitzki deliver in farewell home games*

**DALLAS** (AP) — Dirk Nowitzki scored a season-high 30 points and then announced his retirement in the 40-year-old's final home game, a 120-109 victory for the Dallas Mavericks over the Phoenix Suns on Tuesday night.

The 14-time All-Star took the first eight Dallas shots and scored his team's first 10 points in the first three minutes. He passed his previous season high of 21 on a 3-pointer early in the third quarter.

Dallas' season finale, and the career-ender for Nowitzki, is Wednesday night in San Antonio. Coach Rick Carlisle said the plan is to play Nowitzki, who spent a record 21 seasons with the same franchise. Kobe Bryant, who retired three years ago, played 20 seasons with the Lakers.

"This is obviously super, super emotional," Nowitzki said. "Just too many people to really thank. I put you guys on a helluva ride with a lot of ups and downs, and you guys always stuck with me and supported me, so I appreciate it."

### Heat 122, 76ers 99

In Miami, Dwyane Wade scored 30 points in the tribute-filled final home game of his career, and the Heat defeated the Philadelphia 76ers.

Bam Adebayo scored 19, Justise Winslow scored 16 and Hassan Whiteside added 15 for the Heat, who were eliminated from playoff contention when Detroit beat Memphis—a result that went final during the third quarter of the Miami-Philly game.

Wade's career will end Wednesday in Brooklyn, when Miami plays its regular-season finale. He checked out for the last time with 1:02 left, embracing teammates and his son Zaire—who was on the Heat bench.

### Trail Blazers 104, Lakers 101

In Los Angeles, Maurice Harkless hit a corner 3-pointer at the buzzer, and Portland secured home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs with a win over Los Angeles.

Harkless scored 26 points and Enes Kanter had 22 points and 16 rebounds while the Blazers rallied in the fourth quarter to claim their 52nd win of the season.

### Warriors 112, Pelicans 103

In New Orleans, DeMarcus Cousins had 21 points and 12 rebounds, and Golden State beat New Orleans in a game in which Warriors guard Stephen Curry left with a mild foot sprain.

### Pistons 100, Grizzlies 93

In Detroit, Andre Drummond had 20 points and 17 rebounds and Ish Smith matched a season high with 22 points, helping Detroit rally from a 22-point deficit.

Detroit can clinch a postseason bid by closing the regular season with a win Wednesday night at New York.

Detroit star Blake Griffin was limited to five points and two rebounds in 18-plus minutes, barely playing in the second half because of his injured left knee.

### Jazz 118, Nuggets 108

In Salt Lake City, Donovan Mitchell matched his career high with 46 points as Utah topped Denver.

Rudy Gobert had 20 points and 10 rebounds, Derrick Favors scored 16 points and Joe Ingles added 10 points.

### Thunder 112, Rockets 111

In Oklahoma City, Paul George hit the game-winning 3-pointer with 1.8 seconds left, and the Thunder rallied from 14 points down in the fourth quarter to beat Houston.

Russell Westbrook had 29 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists for his 33rd triple-double of the season and George added 27 points.

### Knicks 96, Bulls 86

In Chicago, Dennis Smith Jr. scored 25 points, Mitchell Robinson added eight points and 17 rebounds and New York escaped the possibility of finishing with its worst-ever record by winning back-to-back games for the first time since February.

With one game remaining, the Knicks (17-64) can only tie for the worst season in franchise history.

### Hornets 124, Cavaliers 97

In Cleveland, Kemba Walker scored 23 points and Charlotte kept its late-season playoff push going with a win over Cleveland.

The Hornets (39-42) had to win to have any chance of beating out Detroit and Miami for the No. 8 spot in the Eastern Conference. Charlotte did its part and must now beat Orlando at home on Wednesday and hope the Pistons (39-42) lose in New York to clinch its first playoff berth in three years.

### Celtics 116, Wizards 110

In Washington Terry Rozier scored 21 points and was one of five Boston players to score in double figures in a meaningless game for both teams.

Brad Wanamaker and Semi Ojeleye each scored 17 for the Celtics.

# 15 Rota students qualify in All Schools meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Fifteen elementary school students from Rota will head to Saipan next month after qualifying for the 2019 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships.

Northern Marianas Athletics and PSS staff members went to Rota last Thursday and held trials to determine the Rota students who will battle Saipan and Tinian representatives in the All Schools meet on May 3 and 4 at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Guadalupe Weilbaacher made the grade in the girls U9's 60m sprints after clocking in at 12.04 seconds. She also qualified in the 100m and 200m runs, while Niarah Muna is Rota's entry in the U7's 60m race. In the U11's 100m and 200m, Aleeyah Hocog qualified, while Keisha Atalig and Krisha Aguero did the same in the U7's 100m and U7's 200m runs, respectively. Completing the Saipan-bound Rota girls team is Esme Manglona, who topped the U9 softball throw qualifier.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Rota students line up to register for the qualifying events in the 2019 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships last Thursday in Sinapalo.

In the boys division, the 60m run qualifiers are U7's Jace Barcinas, U9's Logan Hocog, and U11's Zander Atalig, while 100m event has U7's Kody Mendiola, U9's Gary Mejia, and U11's Ryan Manglona.

For the 200m run, Dvaun Ogo clinched the lone spot in the U7, while Prudencio Manglona bested three other runners in the U9 age group, and Victor Barcinas prevailed against four in the U11 division. For the U11's softball throw, Peter John Manglona bagged the qualifying slot after beating Titus, Lorenzo, and Marco Hocog and Victor Atalig.

Meanwhile, Saipan's qualifiers are ongoing, while Tinian had its elementary school trial last month.

## MINI

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tournament to give way to the Commonwealth.

Then just when everything was going well with the CNMI's preparation for the Games Super Typhoon Yutu came in October last year, causing massive damage to both Saipan and Tinian, including the facilities that are supposed to host the 12 sports to be played in the Mini Games. Five months after Yutu flattened the islands, Torres announced that the government is pulling out its support to Saipan's hosting of the 2021 Mini Games to prioritize the continued recovery efforts in the CNMI.

PGC understood the situation and sympathized with the Commonwealth, but is still hopeful that the islands' door is still open for the Mini Games.

"I hope this is the opportunity (hosting) that the CNMI will take because we don't know when the Games will be back. Think carefully of our proposals (scaling down the Mini Games and suggesting revenue initiatives to offset the costs of hosting). We are presenting an affordable and manageable Mini Games that will leave a legacy in the CNMI," Minogue said.

He added that members of the Pacific Games family will surely support the competition and surplus funds (from participation fees and sponsorships) from hosting the event can be used to help in the recovery efforts in the CNMI.

# Tiger says he can still win Masters

**AUGUSTA, Ga**—Augusta National Golf Club has always been Tiger Woods' first love. He won his first major championship here at 21 in 1997. He won three more Masters titles in the next eight years, but, incredibly, none since. When he leaves town, if he hasn't won this tournament, he has left his best shot at winning a major behind for another year.

Tiger and the Masters. The Masters and Tiger. Here we go again.

It has been more than 10 years since Woods won a major title, the 2008 U.S. Open. Injuries forced him to miss three of his last five Masters. But now, after his surreal comeback from spinal fusion surgery that resulted in strong performances at last year's British Open and PGA Championship, followed by his Tour Championship victory last September, the 43-year-old Woods is just good enough to make us wonder:

Can he really do this? Can he win another Masters?

Tiger being Tiger, he always says he can win. But this time, it doesn't sound ridiculous at all.

"I've proven that I can do it and I put myself there with a chance to win the last two major championships of the year last year," he said in his pre-Masters news conference Tuesday afternoon. "I was right there and just needed to have a couple more things go my way and not throw away a couple shots here and there, which I was able to do at East Lake (the Tour Championship). I just feel like I've improved a lot over the past 12-14 months, but I've more than anything just proven to myself that I can play at this level again. I've worked my way back into one of the players that can win events."

## COMETS

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Besides their impressive pitching, the Comets also capitalized on the Braves' defensive meltdowns, as the winning team scored five of their eight runs at the bottom of the first inning off their opponents' errors. The Comets' five other runs were off two fielder's choice, an RBI from Jay Lizama, and stolen based from Mendiola.

Jesus Tyquengco, Isidro Lizama, and Mendiola made two runs apiece for the Comets.

Meanwhile, McDonald's romped past the Twins, 25-2, in last Sunday's Majors division match.

McDonald's closed out strong, scoring eight runs apiece in the third and fourth inning to finish off the Twins early via the 10-run mercy rule.

Starting pitcher Dillon Santos went 5-for-5 at bat and recorded four runs, two doubles, one single, and three RBIs.

Kazu Dela Cruz relieved Santos late at the bottom of the first inning and started his duty with three straight strikeouts. Dela Cruz went on to fan five more batters, including the first three at the bottom of the fourth and last inning. He gave up only one hit (triple from David Yumul), had one hit by pitch, and contributed four runs.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The NSA Braves' Stanley Iakopo throws to their coach, as they warmup for their match versus the Comets in the 2019 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Casey Chambers, Lance Acosta, and Isaiah Mesa chipped in three runs apiece to complete McDonald's demolition of the Twins.

The Twins got their two runs at the bottom of the third inning with Yumul's triple driving in Brandon Tesiro and the former also reaching home off a wild pitch from Dela Cruz.

## LADY

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layup to draw first blood and then hit two shots in the post. GCA center Azriel Fatialofa swatted several Lady Guardians' attempts and rounded out her team's output with a free throw for a 7-0 advantage.

The Lady Eagles continued to play tough defense in the second canto, as SDA would have been held scoreless again had it not been for Marielle Lopez's split charity. Saures then countered with another shot from the post, giving GCA 9-1 advantage heading into the break.

When action resumed, Soleil Lamar drilled a midrange jumper and a putback, while Fatialofa and Mint Karsouythong also scored to keep GCA on top.

As for the Lady Guardians, they finally made field goals, thanks to Lopez, who converted three stepback jumpers and a fastbreak layup that moved SDA within a point from reaching the double-digit mark.

With the Lady Eagles still ahead heading into the fourth period, 17-8, GCA coaches called on their reserves to finish the game. Both teams ended up struggling on offense in the final canto with Lamar scoring on a fastbreak play for GCA's lone basket and Lopez doing the same with her banked in layup.

Meanwhile, GCA swept the double-leader, as its boys team routed SDA, 46-16.

Lance Lerio led all scorers with his 12 points, while Juruel Magtalas, Justin Du, and Ryan Daproza chipped in with 6 markers apiece in the Eagles' easy win.

With the victory, GCA evened out its record to 2-2, while SDA is still searching for a win after losing its first four.

In other results, Saipan International School eked out a 27-26 overtime win against Saipan Community School.

Geckos captain Dylan Mister nailed the game-winning shot in the extra period and finished the match with 8 points. Daniel Nam also netted 8 markers, while Anthony Gregoire addred 7 points.

Charlie McDonald topscored for the Tsunamis with his 16 points, as the starting forward shouldered much of SCS' offense. Miles Borja and Isaiah Aleksenko contributed 6 and 4 markers, respectively, for the Tsunamis, which clung to a 17-16 halftime lead and eventually lost the match in extra period.

The Geckos notched their third win in four games, while SCS tumbled to a 0-3 record.

Over at the Koblerville Gymnasium, Mt. Carmel School crushed Northern Marianas International School, 45-8.

With the win, the Knights are tangled up with Agape Christian School on top of the team standings, as they hold similar perfect 3-0 records. The Phoenix suffered their second straight loss after an impressive win in their season debut.

Mt. Carmel and Agape will collide tomorrow with their clean marks at stake, while their girls teams will also be duking it out at Torchbearers' court in Gualo Rai. In other games, SIS will host GCA, while NMIS will lace up against SCS in the latter's court.

**GCA 19** —Saures 8, Lamar 6, Fatialofa 3, Karsouythong 2
**SDA 11** —Lopez 11.
**Scoring by quarters:** 7-0, 9-1, 17-9, 19-11.

DeGrom's streaks end as Twins top Mets

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# Comets, McDonald's rout foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

McDonald's and the Comets won their season debuts in convincing fashions after pounding their respective opponents in the Majors division of the 2019 Saipan Little League Baseball over the weekend at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The Comets opened their campaign in the six-team field with a 13-0 victory over the NSA Braves last Saturday.

The Comets needed only three and a half innings to wrap up the one-sided match, as pitchers Pat Mendiola, Greg Tebit, and Isidro Lizama combined for a no-hitter. Mendiola started for the Comets and struck out all the five batters he faced in 1.2 innings he worked the mound. Lizama came in to relieve Mendiola and was also unhittable, as the former fanned four batters—one at the top of the second and the first three in the third. Then in the fourth inning, Tebit took over the mound for the Comets and after walking leadoff batter Stanley Iakopo, the closer struck out the next three to end the game.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Two Comets players get ready to catch a fly during a warm-up drill before their Majors division game against the NSA Braves in the 2019 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

## Mini Games hosting: Seize the opportunity

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

PGC chief executive officer Andrew Minogue, left, and PGC president Vidhya Lakhan listen to questions during the press conference on the status of Saipan's hosting of the 2021 Pacific Mini Games last Tuesday at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

If the CNMI misses its chance to host the 2021 Pacific Mini Games, the Pacific Games Council believes if may take a long while before the quadrennial competition comes to the Commonwealth.

"We can't tell you when you will have it," PGC chief executive officer Andrew Minogue said during a press conference on the status of Saipan's hosting of event last Tuesday at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Minogue and PGC president Vidhya Lakhan left the island yesterday after meeting with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, and Northern Marianas Sports Association for two days. The visitors are hoping that the CNMI government will reconsider its earlier decision on withdrawing its support to Saipan's hosting of the Mini Games.

While the Commonwealth has one month to decide whether to push through with hosting the event for the first time or back out, Minogue said PGC is now preparing the process for selecting the host for the 2025 Pacific Mini Games. The PGC official added that Palau is one of the countries interested in hosting the competition.

As for the 2021 Pacific Mini Games, at least two countries are also waiting in the wings if the CNMI formally gives up its hosting rights. Minogue declined to name the two nations.

The Commonwealth won the bid to host the 2021 Mini Games in 2014 after losing a close battle against Vanuatu, which had the 2017 edition of the meet. After missing the 2017 competition, the CNMI vowed to come back and try again and according to Minogue, other nations did not submit bids for the 2021

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# Lady Eagles secure first win

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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Grace Christian Academy notched its first win after outclassing Seventh Day Adventist, 19-11, in the girls division of the Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Middle School Basketball League yesterday at the GCA court in Navy Hill.

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN

Grace Christian Academy's Soleil Lamar, second left, drives against two Seventh Day Adventist defenders during their game in the CCOPSA middle school caging yesterday at the GCA court in Navy Hill.

The Lady Eagles netted 9 points and held the Lady Guardians to one free throw in the first half to make it to the win column in three tries. SDA shared GCA's 1-2 record.

After missing GCA's first two games, Katriel Saures debuted in the league and scored all but one of the Lady Eagles points in the first half. She charged ahead of the pack and made a fastbreak

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